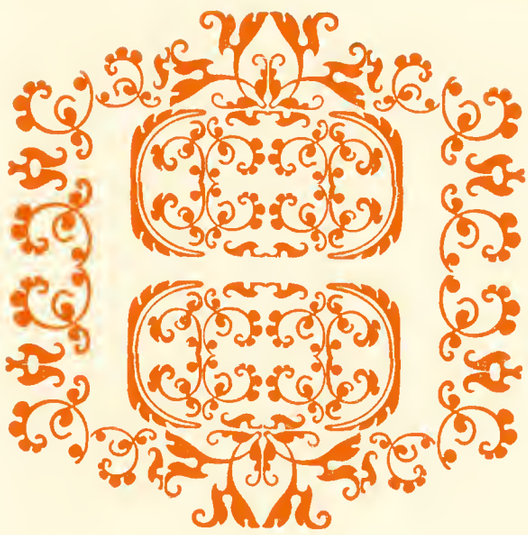
P. & S. Economy



Kenneth Garth Huston

Friday Evng 12 Clock

My dear Friend

I wish Oxford Castle Gaol followed by Oxford City Gaol to appear ~~in~~ next after Maidstone and in two successive Magazines. As for Portsmouth Gaol, it is now done away and no longer disgraces the Borough, therefore will do for the selfish Elements. I have been at home these two days looking over my Stores, and find much additional Food for the Public. The solliciations I have had and some of them very lately, is to me a convincing proof that periodical publishers have stamp'd a Value on the Essays and Remarks — but what has proved their Value by the clearest demonstration is the many Hundred Guineas I have bona fide received. Your Essays are to me invaluable, & tho' your life has been one active Scene of Benevolence I will take upon me to say no Six Years of ~~your life~~ its have roused more generally the Christian Amities than your powerful Arguments in favor of him that was sick and in prison, who cried and had none to help him. It will afford you comfort in the hour of death, and bring you mercy in the day of Judgement —

We are all partial to our own Beats, but in my Opinion there is more Sterling good in the Prison Papers than all the other Articles in the Magazine — and if the Public were not of that Opinion, so many new Gaols wd not spring up like Mushrooms, or the conversation turn upon it in the remotest parts of the Kingdom

Adieu my dear friend and believe me
yrs truly Jas Neild

To Doctor Lettsom

may give my best respects
Lady Di Lestrange when you
see her —

Mr. URBAN, *Sept.* 8.

YOU receive herewith two different views (*Plates I. and II.*) of the remains of an old building in Southwark, now called *The Marſhalſea*, which Tradition points out as a palace of one of our kings; and, as John was complimented with a number of palaces, this, among others, was added to the liſt. There is not any date to aſcertain the time of building it, and no particular account, any more than its being a court to try for piracy and miſdemeanors on the high ſeas. It was appropriated to the purpoſe of recovery of debts, &c. of the King or Queen's ſervants, till, in a caſe argued in Charles the Second's time, the right of extenſion was eſtabliſhed to his Majeſty's ſubjects in general. The extent of juriſdiction is 12 miles from the metropolis, on a ſuppoſition that the King's ſervants in general reſided not farther.

There are the remains of ſome rings, bolts, &c. ſuppoſed to have been uſed on refractory priſoners.

Cowell, in his Interpreter, ſays, "*Mareſhalſee (Mareſcaltia)* is the court of the marſhal, or (word for word) the ſeat of the marſhal; of whom ſee Compton's Juris, &c. folio 102. It is alſo uſed for the priſon in Southwarke; the reaſon whereof may be, becauſe the marſhal of the king's houſe was wont perhaps to ſet there in judgment. See the Statute 9 Rich. II. cap. . . ; and 2 Hen. IV. cap. 23."

Sir Richard Fermor, anceſtor to the earls Pomfret, in the reign of Henry VIII. raiſed a noble fortune by trade; but, being a zealous Romaniſt, and not complying with the alterations in religion introduced at that time, upon a pretended charge of relieving certain traitorous perſons who denied the king's ſupremacy, although nothing was legally proved againſt him, except that he ſent eight pence and a couple of ſhirts to one Nicholas Thaym, formerly his confeſſor, and at that time a priſoner in the gaol of Buckingham, he was committed to the Marſhalſea, tried, found guilty of a præmunire, and ſtripped of his whole eſtate, real and perſonal. The good old man then retired to a village called Wappenham, where he paſſed ſeveral years with the parſon of the pariſh (whom he had preſented to the living) with a moſt conſummate piety and entire reſignation. The king, relenting, was about to make him reſtitution; but death prevented him; and nothing effectual was done till the fourth year of King Edward VI. when he recovered about one-third of what he formerly poſſeſſed; and, to make ſome compenſation, King Edward granted to him and his heirs ſeveral lordſhips, manors, lands, and tenements, in the counties of Dorſet, Northampton, and Eſſex; whereupon he returned to his manſion-houſe at Eaſton-Neſton, where he died, about three years after, in January, 1552.

Yours, &c. T. P.

*** To this account of our ingenious but unfortunate correſpondent, we ſhall add, from a recent publication by the modern HOWARD, that this priſon is under the particular cuſtody of the *Subſtitute*, who has his appointment from the Knight Marſhal of the King's houſhold for the time being.

The court-yard is ſpacious, contains near 50 rooms, and is well ſupplied with water.

No pirates have been committed to this priſon ſince 1789; but ſeveral perſons have been, and are, committed in execution, under ſentence of courts martial, to ſuffer impriſonment for a limited time: they are committed by the Lords of the Admiralty, purſuant to the ſentence.

In December 1801, there were 34 perſons who had with them 8 wives and 7 children in the priſon; but the whole building (the philanthropic writer ſtates) is in a moſt ruinous and inſecure ſtate, and the habitations of the debtors wretched in the extreme.

Mr. Henry Allnut, who was many years a priſoner here, had, during his confinement, a large eſtate bequeathed to him. He learned ſympathy by his ſufferings, and left 100l. a year for diſcharging poor debtors from hence, the payment or compoſition of whoſe debts do not exceed 4l.; and for this purpoſe he bound his manor of Goring, in Oxfordſhire.

Mr. Neild enumerates ſeveral other ſmall annual benefactions from ſeveral public companies and individuals; among which are the archbiſhop of Canterbury—and a legacy of the famous Eleanor Gwinn. EDIT.

LETTER XXXIX. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, February, 1807.

Omne animi vitium tanto conſpectius in ſe [habetur*.
Crimen habet, quanto major qui peccat

Sambrook Court, March 15.

Mr. URBAN,

SELDOM have I felt more concern in reviewing the ſtate of Priſons, than on the preſent occaſion. Many of the ſcenes of human miſery introduced into theſe pages, have been drawn from diſtant places, where ſome apology might be pleaded for apparent neglect, in conſequence of pecuniary inability, or want of power, to remove the exiſting evil; but in the preſent inſtance theſe are amply poſſeſſed, and at the ſame time the miſerable ſtate of the Priſon was made known to thoſe whoſe duty and ſtation it was to afford relief.

The Magiſtrates and Citizens of London have been ſo uniformly diſtinguiſhed for philanthropy and liberality, that this neglect of the Borough Compter muſt certainly have ariſen from ſome other ſource than that of inhumanity; and may, perhaps, be aſcribed to the circumſtance of not having had a reſident Alderman in that ward or diſtrict for a ſeries of years; and ſhould it appear ſo to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, it may be preſumed, from their diſtinguiſhed urbanity, that the local reſidence of an Alderman or High Bailiff will become an object of their recommendation, and afford ſuch an example of humane attention to the Priſoner, as may excite emulation in every part of the kingdom. J. C. LETTSOM.

BOROUGH COMPTER. Keeper, Sir *Watkin Lewes*, knt. Bailiff of the Borough, appointed by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen. *John Bullevant*, Deputy. Salary, none. Fees: Debtors, 7s. 6d. garniſh, 2s. Chaplain, none. Surgeon, none. Number of Debtors September 14, 1801, nine; February 9, 1802, five; January 2, 1803, eight; December 8, 1804, eight; December 10, 1805, five; May 28, 1806, ſeven. Allowance to Debtors; a two-penny loaf *per* day from the City (weight, March 10, 1801, *ſix ounces**), and 65 penny loaves every eight weeks, from Mrs. Margaret Symcott's† gift, a memorial of which is fixed up in the priſon: and twenty ſhillings every Chriſtmas from the Archbiſhop of Canterbury.

Remarks. The Borough Compter, or *Clink*, under the juriſdiction of the Bailiff of *Southwark*, but controulable by the City of London, extends its juriſdiction over five pariſhes. Debtors have one ſmall court-yard, about 19 feet ſquare. On the ground floor, on the right hand, is the women's day and ſleeping room, 24 feet by 9 feet 6 inches. On the left is one intended for men, 41 feet by 10; but the floor of this room being *earth*, or *mud*, and unfit to ſleep upon, no uſe has been made of it for many years, ſo that men and women aſſociate together during the day time in the women's room. Up-ſtairs are two rooms, the ſame ſize as thoſe below, and now (1806) in good repair. All have fire-places; but no coals are allowed, no kettles or ſaucepans to cook proviſions; no mops, brooms, or pails, to keep the priſon clean. No bedſteads, bedding, or even ſtraw, to lie upon. Debtors are obliged to ſleep on the dirty boards in their cloaths. All thoſe who are arreſted by proceſs iſſuing out of the Borough Court, are ſent to this Priſon, and there are rooms in the

* Every fault of the mind becomes more conſpicuous, and more guilty, in proportion to the rank of the offender.

* The allowance of bread ought every where to be in *weight*, and not in money, becauſe of the variable price: in Auguſt 1773, the twopenny loaf weighed *twenty-one ounces*.

† Eleanor Gwinn's legacy.

houſe

houſe for thoſe who can pay. The extreme diſtreſs and wretchedneſs I often have witneſſed in this Priſon, particularly in the years 1801, 1802, 1803, and 1804, cauſed me to write the following letter to the Lord Mayor:

"My Lord,

I beg pardon for the liberty I take in addreſſing myſelf to your Lordſhip; but when the importance of the ſubject and the object it has in view are conſidered, they will, I truſt, plead excuſe. It is now more than three years ſince I made my firſt report to the Lord Mayor and the Court of Aldermen, of the ſtate of the Borough Compter. A Committee was appointed to inſpect it. The windows were repaired and glazed, it was white-waſhed and ſwept. This being all the improvement it has received, permit me to treſpaſs on your Lordſhip's patience, and that of the honourable Court, whilſt I deſcribe its preſent ſtate.

Sir Watkin Lewes, as Bailiff of the Borough, is, I preſume, the keeper. His deputy, John Bullevant, has no ſalary. This priſon extends its juriſdiction over five pariſhes. Men and women debtors have one ſmall court-yard, about nineteen feet ſquare; and they appear to me at all times to aſſociate together. They have nothing but the dirty boards to ſleep upon. No bedding, or even ſtraw, allowed. No fire, even in this cold and damp ſeaſon. No medical aſſiſtance in ſickneſs. No religious attentions whatever. The few remaining boards in the *men* debtors room (mentioned in my former report) are now taken away, as are the joiſts on which they were laid. The room is uſeleſs; the floor is earth. Neither mops, brooms, nor pails are allowed, to keep the priſon clean. Soap or towels are not afforded to the Priſoner; ſo that a man may for a debt of one guinea, remain in this wretched place *forty days*, without once taking off his cloaths, or waſhing his hands and face.

Permit me now, my Lord, to ſubmit to your conſideration the allowance to this Priſon. It is a twopenny loaf a day; weight, March 10, 1801, *ſix ounces!* and December 7, 1804, *eight ounces.* This ſcanty proviſion, without any nutritious liquor, only water, is not ſufficient to ſupport the cravings of nature; and the priſoner at his diſcharge may be fit for an hoſpital, but he cannot be fit for labour. The County of Middleſex allows to priſoners of this deſcription, in Cold Bath Fields, a loaf of bread of one pound weight every day, a pint of gruel every morning, a quart of broth made of rice and oatmeal for dinner, and every other day ſix ounces of meat for dinner, inſtead of broth. They have a common room with a fire-place, and a peck of coals *per* day; two ſleeping-cells, 7 feet by 5½, with plank bedſteads, ſtraw in ticking beds, a blanket and a rug.

What a contraſt! what ſhall I ſay to a ſyſtem ſtill continued, though reſpectfully ſubmitted to the Court more than three years ago? I am informed there has been no *reſident* Alderman in this ward for many years, which may in ſome meaſure account for the total neglect of this miſerable place. The ſixty-five penny loaves every eight weeks (from Mrs. Symcott's gift) might, if diſtributed at proper periods according to the number of debtors, be of real ſervice; but they are ſent all at one time; and the late keeper informed me, when there was only one debtor, he had the whole, and ſold them.

No enquiry ever appears to be made about the ſtate of this Priſon; and there being no reſident Magiſtrate, the cries of the miſerable never reach that Court where diſtreſs ſeldom ſupplicates in vain. The annual donation of 20s. by the Archbiſhop of Canterbury is diſtributed in the ſame inconſiderate manner as the bread. Liberality, benevolence, and humanity, are the characteriſtics of the City, and on all public occaſions ſhe extends them in a manner worthy the firſt City in the world. The Gaols of Newgate, Ludgate, Giltſpur-ſtreet, and Poultry, are ample partakers of its bounty, while the miſerable one I have been deſcribing, ſituate in Surrey, has no claim to the proviſion made by that liberal County. Forgot by the City—out of reach of being heard — it ſeems a wretched *caſt-off*, and may be numbered among the worſt Priſons in the kingdom. At my viſits the 7th and 8th of this month (December 1804) the number of priſoners eight; viz. ſix men, two women; their condition ragged and dirty, ſtarving, and (except one) without employ. In this extremity, two ſhillings *garniſh* is exacted from every new comer.

That this picture is not overcharged

I am

I am ready to prove; and will attend the Court of Aldermen any time they pleaſe to appoint, to interrogate the Keeper as to *facts*.

Mr. Alderman Combe, when Lord Mayor, honoured my remarks on the Poultry Compter with the moſt prompt and effectual relief; and I humbly hope, my Lord, for a like exertion of your high authority, and for the exerciſe of a like compaſſion toward the unhappy objects of it.

I have the honour to be, with great reſpect, my Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient,
and faithful humble ſervant,
JAMES NEILD.

Chelſea, December 11, 1804.

To Right Hon. Peter Perchard, eſq. Lord Mayor."

There were committed to this priſon in 1801, 180; in 1802, 160; in 1803, 170; in 1804, 125; in 1805, 131; in 1806, 147 perſons. Benevolence, however, occaſionally finds its way within theſe dreary walls; for at Eaſter, 1804, two legs and two ſhins of beef were ſent. The 15th March, 1805, there were three men and one woman priſoners; the woman was extremely ill of a bloody flux, and the poor men had raiſed eighteen pence amongſt them, and bought a truſs of ſtraw, of which they had given the ſick woman a large portion. I was much pleaſed with this act of ſympathy: the deputy keeper lent her an old blanket, and humanely permitted her to come into the houſe during the day, by which, and ſome other charitable aſſiſtance, ſhe recovered. On the 9th December, 1805, three legs of beef were ſent; the number of priſoners *four*. And this year ſome humane gentleman ſent two pair of blankets and two rugs. The 25th March, 1806, three legs of beef were ſent; the number of priſoners *eleven*. At my viſit on the 28th, I found five debtors, who had with them in priſon three wives and nine children; and the ſame benevolent gentleman had ſent them eight ſmall flock beds, and this year liberated eight priſoners. The 28th May, 1806, the ſeven debtors had with them in priſon five infant children. When any proviſions are ſent, the keeper's wife kindly lends them veſſels to cook it in. The head Keeper had not viſited the priſon theſe 18 months! The loweſt ſum for which I ſaw any record of commitment was 1s. 7d. coſts 8s. 2d. but the late keeper told me there had been one committed for *ſevenpence*. In 1785, the *fees* and *expences* on a debt of *one ſhilling* were 15s. 11d. and for the payment of which the debtor might remain impriſoned for *life*, with felons of every deſcription; but by the perſevering repreſentations of the "SOCIETY for the Relief of Perſons Impriſoned for ſmall Debts," Fees are aboliſhed, the expences leſſened, impriſonment limited, and an entire ſeparation from felons, in every Gaol throughout the kingdom.

The Felons Court-yard is about 14½ feet by 11, and ſeparated from the Debtors by a brick wall. Their day-room, called the *ſtone-room*, 17 feet by 12, has a fire-place; no coals allowed. Over this is the ſleeping room, 16 feet by 14; no bedding or ſtraw. Criminals are only confined here a night or two, till fully committed. The following table of fees is hung up in the houſe, viz.

A Table of Fees to be taken by the Keeper of the Borough Compter.

	£.	s.	d.
For the admiſſion of every priſoner for felony, treſpaſs, aſſault, or other miſdemeanour - - - - -	0	11	4
For every night's lodging - -	0	0	6
To the Turnkey, for the admiſſion of every ſuch priſoner - - - - - - - -	0	1	0
For every perſon brought by any peace officer for ſafe cuſtody, until hearing can be had before a magiſtrate - - - - - - -	0	2	0

And for the better information of ſuch priſoners, the Court doth further order and direct, that a table of the ſaid fees be fixed up in the moſt conſpicuous part of the ſaid priſon, for the peruſal and inſpection of the ſaid priſoners, and others reſorting to the ſaid gaol.

By the Court. MAN.

Printed by NICHOLS *and* SON, *Red Lion Paſſage, Fleet Street,*

LETTER XL. ON PRISONS*.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, April, 1807.

Formam quidem ipſam, Marce fili, et tanquam faciem honeſti vides; quæ ſi oculis cerneretur, mirabiles amores (ut ait Plato) excitaret ſapientiæ†.

TULL. Offic.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, April 6.*

IN examining the ſtructure and ſite of priſons, it is much eaſier to diſcover a fault than to aſcertain a remedy; hence an intrinſic value in the preſent hiſtory of priſons will reſult from the acquiſition of the latter, as upon every requiſite occaſion the means of improvement are coupled with the narrative of their imperfections; and hence if, from the remiſſneſs of the magiſtrates, or of the perſons now in power, theſe judicious inſtructions ſhould be diſregarded, they will ſtill remain examples of wiſdom, and ſuggeſtions of humanity, which, "like bread caſt upon the waters, may be found after many days‡;" and which the good ſenſe and philanthropy of the citizens of Coventry may ſome time exemplify, by adopting thoſe improvements in the gaol which were pointed out in 1803, although in 1804 no alteration had taken place, whilſt one tenth part of the money ſquandered away at the late conteſted election would have been ſufficient to have conſtructed a new gaol, and the neceſſity avoided of fumigating dungeons which can only be entered by a deſcent of 12 ſteps.

Compared to the ſtate of the priſon of Coventry, that of Derby affords an agreeable relief. Here Religion is ſo far regarded as to encourage a chaplain to officiate, whoſe duties are aided by the diſtribution of religious books; which, indeed, ſhould ever conſtitute part of the furniture of a priſon, where confinement ſhould be rendered conducive to moral improvement, as well as to bodily ſecurity. J. C. LETTSOM.

DERBY Town Gaol, which is alſo the Town Bridewell, is ſituated in Willow Row. *Charles Smith*, Gaoler; ſalary 50l. for Gaol and Bridewell. Fees, debtors and felons 12s. 8d. No Table. Garniſh 1s. Chaplain, none; nor any religious attentions whatever. Surgeon, Mr. Haden; makes a bill. Allowance. Three twelve-penny loaves *per* week, ſent from the baker's; weight, Oct. 9, 1805, 4lb. each. Tranſports, the expence of removal.

The Gaoler's houſe fronts the ſtreet, and his back room has a full command of the court-yard, which is 33 feet by 24, with a pump, two ſewers, and a leaden ciſtern for a cold bath, hard and ſoft water at all times acceſſible: this court is the only one for all deſcriptions of priſoners. The ground-floor is occupied by the debtors day-room, ſize, 12 feet by 11, which has a fire-place, and iron-grated window to the court. The felons' day-room is about 10 feet ſquare, with a fire-place and iron-grated window.

The ſleeping-cell (called the dungeon) is 12 feet by 8, lighted and ventilated by a ſmall iron-grated window, only 11 inches by 10, with a barrack bedſtead, ſtraw (looſe and worn to duſt), two blankets, and a rug.

The women's day-room, 10 feet ſquare, has a fire-place and iron-grated window to the court; the room to ſleep in is above-ſtairs, and the ſame ſize as that below, but the window is glazed. Up-ſtairs debtors have their ſleeping-rooms, with glazed windows and

* The laſt letter ſhould have been numbered XXXVIII.

† Thou ſeeſt, my ſon Marcus, Virtue as it were embodied; which, if it could be made the object of ſight, would (as Plato ſays) excite in us a wonderful love of Virtue.

‡ Eccles. xi, 1.

and fire-places, about 12 feet square. Wood bedsteads, loose straw, and two blankets, and one rug, are allowed to every bed, and two tons of coals a year for the whole Gaol. All are allowed to work that can procure it, and have the whole of their earnings: the debtor was cutting butcher's skewers at 3d. a thousand. No room set apart for an Infirmary. Act and Clauses not up. Whitewashed and visited once a year.

Prisoners, Aug. 23, 1803, Debtors 2, Felons, &c. 8, Deserter 1; Oct. 9, 1805, Debtor 1, Felon 1, Offender 1.

Debtors from the Court of Requests are sent here, and have the same allowance as paupers from their respective parishes. In 1803 the Mayor, Mr. Snowdin, allowed the prisoners at Christmas 9 lb. of beef and a peck of potatoes, but this has not been continued.

Derby County Gaol. *William Eaton*, Gaoler; salary 170l. and for the Bridewell 30l.; 8l. 8s. for straw, and 2l. 12s. 6d. for coals. Fees as *per* Table. Garnish abolished. Chaplain, Rev. Nicholas Bailey; salary 35l.; duty, Monday and Wednesday prayers, Saturday prayers and sermon, and attends convicts under sentence of death every day. Surgeon, Mr. Francis Fox; salary 40l. for attendance and medicines for all descriptions of prisoners, and making his return to the Quarter Sessions. For conveyance of Transports, 7l. *per* man to Woolwich, and 10l. to Portsmouth. Allowance, two 12d. loaves a week sent in from the baker's; weight, Oct. 9, 1805, 4lb. each. When a debtor receives his sixpences, he has no County allowance. Number of prisoners: Debtors 13, Felons and Petty Offenders 7; House of Correction 9.

This Gaol is situate on Nun's Green, the front of which is occupied by the Keeper, and extends 126 feet, including the passage which leads to the Garden of five feet wide; the depth is 120 feet; so that, when the width of the passage is taken off, it forms a complete square. It was finished and inhabited in 1757. The Keeper's back rooms command all the courts except the vagrants. There is one court-yard 82 feet by 43, well supplied with hard and soft water, common to the debtors and the men in the House of Correction; but the debtors have the exclusive privilege of walking on the flat roof, which is 90 feet by 26. A large day-room, 20 feet by 15, and 10 feet 6 inches high, with an oven and utensils for frugal cookery. They have eight sleeping and work-rooms, all above stairs, the average size about 17 feet 6 inches by 11 feet, and 9 feet 3 inches high, with a fire-place and glazed windows, and wood bedsteads. Chaff beds, two blankets, two sheets, a rug, and a bolster, are furnished by the Keeper at 6d. each *per* week, but if a debtor brings his own bed he pays nothing; there are likewise convenient water-closets at the end of the lobbies or passages, to which they have access in the night-time. The humane Keeper frequently finds them employment in weaving callico; they are furnished with looms from the town at 4d. *per* week, and have all their earnings. Women debtors have a separate court 23 feet 9 inches by 12 feet 6 inches, with hard and soft water, and a sewer in it. Their four lodging-rooms are up a flight of 18 steps; each has a fire-place and glazed windows, and the average size about 12 feet square and 9 feet high; these are fitted up with beds and bedding the same as the men's. Two of the lower of these rooms are occasionally used for women felons and misdemeanours.

Men felons have a court-yard 93 feet by 43, with hard and soft water and a sewer in it. A day-room 25 feet by 18, and 10 feet high, with an oven, and fitted up with utensils for frugal cookery. A door opens into a lobby 24 feet by 3 feet 4; in this lobby there are four sleeping cells 7 feet by 7 feet 4 inches, and 8 feet 3 inches high, with boarded floors and sacking filled with straw, two blankets, and a rug. To these cells warm air can be introduced by means of flues under the floors, which keeps them perfectly dry. The only light (and that a borrowed one) is from an aperture over each door 12 inches by 6, so that when the door is shut they are almost totally dark; the ventilation is likewise very bad.

Near these is another door which opens into the court-yard; the lobby or passage is 25 feet 6 inches long, and three feet wide. This contains three cells, which are about the same size as those above described; two of them equally dark and ill ventilated; the third has an iron grating, which looks into the debtors court, and is much preferable

preferable to any of the others: into this cell a prisoner is put when left for execution, and there is a slip, or day-room, 12 feet 6 by 6 feet, with a glazed window, a fire-place, table, chairs, and religious books, where the clergyman daily attends him. The humane and considerate Magistrates likewise allow criminals in this unhappy situation a hot dinner every day, and tea twice a day.

House of Correction. Prisoners have one common court-yard with the debtors; their day-room is 17 feet 6 by 16 feet 6, and 11 feet 3 inches high, with a fire-place and glazed window; and there is a room on the ground-floor 7 feet 6 by 7 feet for deserters, with wood bedsteads and bedding the same as the other prisoners. Above-stairs are two sleeping-rooms 17 feet 6 by 16 feet 6, and 11 feet 3 inches high, and a small room the same size as that for deserters.

Vagrants have a separate court, out of sight, at the farther part of the Gaol, 39 feet by 20, with a sewer in it, but no water; it is carried by the Keeper four times a day. On the ground-floor are two rooms 12 feet 6 by 10 feet, and 7 feet 6 high, with a fire-place and glazed window; to these beds and bedding are furnished as for the other prisoners. Above these are two others the same size. For the conveyance of vagrants the Keeper is allowed 3d. a mile *per* head, and 6d. *per* day for the maintenance of each. The Chapel is 26 feet by 25, and 10 feet high, with four sash-windows, pewed so that the women are out of sight of the men, and the Clergyman has a way into it from the Keeper's house. All prisoners are required to attend (except Roman Catholics); and Bibles, Prayer-books, and religious tracts, are furnished by the County. Over the Chapel are two infirmary-rooms, 35 ft. by 11, and 9 feet 3 inches high each, with fire-places and glazed windows. The wall, which has a course of 11 loose bricks, is 21 feet high. All descriptions of prisoners have a hot dinner on Christmas and New Year's day, and bread and cheese to supper, and each a pint of ale. There is a man (Thomas Jenney) goes about at Christmas with a book soliciting relief for the debtors, in which the donors enter their names and subscriptions; the amount, at Christmas 1804, about 32l. For the trouble of collecting the man receives one fourth. For felons, there is a woman who goes to gentlemen's houses three Sundays in a month to collect, and she receives one fourth part of the sum collected; it amounts generally to three or four shillings a Sunday. She carries with her a tin box, which has an aperture for the money. Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, both hung up, and frequently visited by the Magistrates. There is an exceedingly good cold bath with a copper for warm water. No oven, or County cloathing; but, if a prisoner is very ragged, he is cloathed at the County's expence.

Number of prisoners, Nov. 16, 1800, Debtors 9, Felons and Petty Offenders 35; Jan. 29, 1802, Debtors 12, Felons and Petty Offenders 41; Aug. 24, 1803, Debtors 8, Felons, &c. 18; Oct. 9, 1805, Debtors 13, Felons, &c. 16.

Coventry. Gaoler, *Basil Goode*; salary 120l. out of which he pays for the removal of all convicts. Debtors, Fees, 15s. 4d. besides which, the Under Sheriff demands 4s. for his *liberate*. Felons pay no fees. Garnish abolished. Chaplain, none; except to those under sentence of death. Surgeon, Mr. Whitwell; salary, none; makes a bill. Number of prisoners, March 26, 1800, Debtors 2, Felons, &c. 9; August 22, 1803, Debtors 3, Felons, &c. 15; Nov. 2, 1805, Debtors 2, Felons, &c. 7. Allowance, a four-penny or sixpenny loaf, as bread is dear or cheap, a day. Debtors have the same allowance, if *very poor*.

Remarks. This Gaol, built in 1772, is in a very close part of the city. One court-yard, 60 feet by 40, for debtors, felons, and all descriptions of prisoners. A separate day-room, about 14 feet square. There are seven lodging-rooms for master's-side debtors, to which the Keeper furnishes beds at 3s. or, if two sleep together, 2s. *per* week each; and a common ward for *poor* debtors, to which the City allows a bedstead, with straw (which is changed every three weeks), a blanket, and a rug, for which they pay six-pence a week. Women felons have only one room. The men have a day-room 11 feet by 10. To their *dungeons* there is a descent of 12 steps to a narrow passage of four feet wide: the four dungeons are about 9 feet by 6, with a little window 11 inches by 7; all are damp and offensive: a boultin of

straw

ſtraw (long wheat ſtraw, about 24lb. ſo called) is allowed to each felon every three weeks, two rugs, and two blankets. Torches, with kettles of pitch and tar, are burnt in the dungeons every other day, and one day fumigated with vinegar. We went down with lighted candles; and it may juſtly be ſaid, they are a diſgrace to this large manufacturing City. The debtors rooms are fumigated with vinegar twice a week. This Gaol might be improved by incloſing a ſmall piece of waſte ground adjoining, and making a ſeparate court for the women, in which caſe the horrid dungeons need not be uſed; and if a few old houſes in Pope's Head-alley were pulled down, a new gaol might be built ſufficiently large for the City. The Act for Preſervation of Health, and Clauſes againſt Spirituous Liquors, both hung up; and coals are allowed by the City.

Coventry City *Bridewell.* Gaoler *John Haſſel*; ſalary 20l. fees 1s. Chaplain, none. Surgeon, Mr. *Whitwell* makes a bill. Number of priſoners March 26, 1800, 2; Aug. 22, 1803 5; Nov. 1, 1805, 6. Allowance ſame as the City Gaol.

Remarks. This priſon was formerly the old Town Hall, ſince which a riding-ſchool, but now converted into a large work-room, with two very dark lodging-rooms for men. No court. The women have a ſmall day-room, with a fire-place, to which the City allows coals, and their ſleeping-room is over it. At my viſit, 1805 part of the floor of the work-room was flagged, and four new ſleeping-cells built, about 9 feet by 7 each with bedding the ſame as in the City Gaol. The Keeper is a currier, and the work-room was hung full of hides

Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, May, 1807.

LETTER XLI. ON PRISONS.

Ημαρτον εις τον ουρανον, και ενωπιον*.

Sambrook Court, May 29.

Mr. URBAN,

THE ſubſequent hiſtory of a priſon, conducted by the Magiſtrates on the beſt principles, thoſe of promoting reformation and induſtry, is ſo amply detailed, as to preclude the neceſſity of any additional remark. To obtain theſe ſalutary effects, is the rational motive for the infliction of puniſhment. True penitence claims forgiveneſs, as in the inſtance of the prodigal ſon, the narrative of which is conveyed with an impreſſive appeal to humanity, and with the forcible examples of repentance and forgiveneſs; and the offender is again admitted into the boſom of ſociety. Oppoſition, however, was raiſed, even by him who ought to have been moſt diſpoſed to ſympathize and pardon; for his brother was full of reſentment, and refuſed to enter his father's houſe, into which the penitent ſon was joyfully admitted. The conciliatory and benevolent explanation affords a laudable example for imitation, and the nearer it is approached, the greater will be the beneficial influence on ſociety.

Yours, &c. J. C. LETTSOM.

* "I have ſinned againſt Heaven, and before thee." Luke xv. 18.

DOR-

Dorchester Gaol. *George Andrews*, gaoler; salary 218l. for himself and two turnkeys; fees, debtors 13*s.* 4*d.* which are paid to the treasurer of the *county stock*. The Under-sheriff also demands 2*s.* for his *liberate*. Felons pay no fees; conveyance of transports 1*s.* *per* mile. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Bryer; duty, twice every Sunday, and once on Wednesday; salary 50*l.* Surgeon, Mr. Arden; salary 40*l.* A Task-master 60*l.* *per annum*. Allowance to debtors, none, except they work for the county, in which case they receive one half their earnings, and a pound and a half of wheat bread made with the whole of the bran in it, and a quart of broth *per* day. All prisoners committed for trial have the same allowance as the debtors, and on the same conditions. After conviction every prisoner whose earnings amount to 5*s.* *per* week has, in addition to the above allowance, three pound of meat *per* week, with a proportionable quantity of potatoes, and one-sixth of his earnings: if his earnings do not amount to 5*s.* he has the same allowance, and only one-sixth of the *profit*. The county finds employment for all who chuse to work, and all must work or maintain themselves; and the last prisoner committed, of whatever description, takes the broom and sweeps the court, or gives 7½*d.* to another prisoner to do it for him.

Remarks. The situation of this Gaol is most judiciously chosen, on the North side of the town of Dorchester, on a piece of ground still called the Castle, and which was formerly the site of a building of that description, at the foot of which flows the river Frome. Around the outside boundary wall is a spacious esplanade laid down to grass; and on the North side, in the front of the lodge, a handsome slope to the river, with trees planted on its banks. The ground on which the prison is erected was in a most handsome manner given by Francis John Browne, esq. one of the members for the county. The entrance building consists of a room for the turnkey and task-master to sleep in, a room containing a mill for grinding corn, and every other requisite for grinding and dressing the flour, and where all the corn used for supplying the prison with bread is ground; a Committee-room for the Magistrates to transact business in, an office for the Gaoler, a backhouse and brewhouse, with iron boilers, an oven, and other conveniences for cooking for the prisoners, and a warm and cold bath. Up-stairs are six reception cells about 9 feet by 4, and 8 feet 6 inches high, where prisoners are placed on their entrance, and till the surgeon pronounces them fit to be removed into the interior parts of the prison; they are then sent to their proper classes. There are likewise three work-rooms in this building, and on the top of the lodge there is a flat roof covered with copper, on which executions take place in view of all criminal prisoners, who are brought out of their cells into the different galleries for that purpose, the church bell tolling during the awful ceremony.

From the Turnkey's lodge you pass through the Keeper's court to the centre buildings. On the ground floor are the Gaoler's parlour, kitchen, and scullery, and a passage which leads to two spacious day-rooms for men debtors, each being 6 yards by 4½ yards, and 12 feet high. When the friend of a debtor comes to see him he is introduced into a narrow slip, the inner door of which is constantly kept locked, the outer one open; there are two windows opening from it, one into each debtor's day room; the windows are iron-grated, but a table goes through each of them, one half being in the debtor's room, the other half in the narrow slip, where his friend is. Debtors are not therefore excluded from the society of their friends, yet the visitors are not allowed in general to come into the rooms. In particular cases the Gaoler, where he finds it proper, unlocks the inner door, and suffers the debtor to take his friend with him into his cell or court. Those who are imprisoned till they pay a certain fine, and those for felony, have each a small slip or space for their friends to converse with them as with the debtors, in the presence of the Keeper; the three gates of the slips or small spaces being all locked, the Gaoler, on application, lets the friend into the space between the first and second gates, and stands himself between the second and third, the prisoner remaining in the court; he can thus effectually prevent the introduction of weapons, liquor, or other articles, the use of which is forbidden in the prison, as well as be a check on any improper conversation. In the case, how-

however, of ſome known relation of the party, or other perſon having real private buſineſs with the priſoner, the Gaoler previouſly ſearches the friend, and then admits him or her into the ſpace betwen the ſecond and third gates, and he himſelf retires.

The friends of debtors are permitted to remain, if they pleaſe, from ten o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon; the friends of fines and felons are only allowed to remain a ſhort time with them, except in caſes of real buſineſs, when the Keeper indulges them at his diſcretion. After four o'clock no ſtranger is ſuffered to remain within the walls.

In the centre building are alſo two ſtore rooms and a large pair of ſcales. There are eight airy court-yards, the average ſize from 70 to 80 feet long, and 30 to 40 wide; five of theſe communicate with the centre building, *viz.* one for male debtors, and four for criminal priſoners, into which eight ſingle work-cells open. The firſt floor contains the chapel, to which priſoners have acceſs by different doors to their reſpective diviſions; and all are required to attend Divine Service unleſs prevented by ſickneſs. At each corner of the chapel is a cell for priſoners under ſentence of death, light and airy; and over theſe are four cells for refractory priſoners, perfectly dark but well ventilated. On this and the ſecond ſtory of this building are 16 ſleeping-cells, and two ſpacious rooms for men debtors, each containing four beds, to be uſed in caſe the number exceeds that which can be accommodated in the debtors ward; over theſe are two other rooms, one for female debtors the other for female fines; and above are the two infirmaries, each 18 feet by 13, and 8 feet 6 inches high, light and airy, with waſhing-troughs and water cloſets, and a communication to a ſeparate flat in the different ſides of the roof, one for each ſex, for the benefit of convaleſcents; there is a diſpenſary between the two for the convenience of the ſurgeon; and a pew from each opening into the chapel, for the uſe of ſuch ſick priſoners as may be able to attend Divine Service.

The other part of the priſon conſiſts of four wings, detached from, but communicating with the centre building on each ſtory by means of caſt-iron bridges from the ſeveral galleries. Each wing contains 18 ſleeping-cells. There are likewiſe ſeveral work-rooms in each diviſion of the priſon; ſome for ſingle perſons to work in in ſolitude; others for two, three, or more perſons, for the purpoſe of employing the priſoners in ſuch work as they may be capable of, with ſtore rooms, and every other convenience to render the arrangement complete; beſides a conſiderable edifice for the manufacture of hats*, built at the expence of William Morton Pitt, eſq. one of the members for the county, as a ſmall teſtimony of his gratitude for the confidence repoſed in him, and for the repeated favours conferred upon him by his conſtituents. This manufacture was tried for ſeveral years with great ſucceſs; the priſoners who work in ſolitude are employed in the firſt ſtages of it, and thoſe parts of the works which require the labour of ſeveral perſons working together are performed by thoſe who by the rules of the priſon are indulged with a leſſer degree of reſtriction. The produce of the work is divided into ſhares, of which each priſoner has a ſhare allotted to him, and placed to his account, to be paid him at the time of his liberation; another ſhare is allowed to the keeper, to encourage him to be attentive to this object; and the remainder is accounted for to the county, and defrays a conſiderable proportion of the expences of the priſon.

In the ſeveral buildings there are 88 ſingle ſleeping-cells, 8 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6, and 9 feet high to the crown of the arch, to which the county allows a caſt-iron bedſtead, a palliaſſe or a ticking filled with ſtraw, a pair of blankets, and a coverlit; and any debtors, male or female, who are content to ſleep in the county beds have them *gratis*, otherwiſe they muſt provide their own beds and bedding (which they are allowed to do) themſelves, or pay the Gaoler 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for bed and bedding with one ſheet, or 3*s.* 6*d.* for bedding with a pair of ſheets. To every ward there are arcades 5½ yards by 3½ for day-rooms for the ſeveral claſſes, and water-cloſets on every ſtair-caſe. Net towels on rollers are provided for the priſoners; and, beſides the cocks and waſhing-troughs in the different courts, there is an engine which throws water to the ſeveral cisterns on the top of each building, from whence every part is plentifully ſupplied with water, including the ſeveral water-cloſets which

* This manufactory I found diſcontinued at my viſit in October 1803.

are

are allotted to the use of each subdivision of cells.

There are no sleeping-cells on the ground floor, by which arrangement the custody of the prisoner is rendered more secure, and his health not liable to be injured by the arising of damps; and by means of air-holes constructed in the back of each cell (except in the upper stories, where they are placed in the arches of the cells), and which are so managed as to exclude conversation; while they admit air, its thorough circulation is preserved. There is no allowance of coal either to male or female debtors except in the winter season in very cold weather, and except an especial order is made for that purpose by the visiting Magistrates; and the coals so ordered are not paid for out of the *county stock*, but out of the *gaol charity fund*. Criminal prisoners are allowed one peck of coals *per* day during the six winter months, and half a peck *per* day the six summer months. There is a fund placed in the hands of the chaplain, but under the direction of the visiting justices, and arising from the charitable contributions of individuals, from which an additional quantity of coals is purchased in extreme hard weather for the different classes of prisoners. The debts of such debtors as upon enquiry are found to be truly objects of compassion, are compounded and liquidated, and rewards given to prisoners who twelve months after their discharges produce certificates, properly attested, of their having served those who employed them faithfully, honestly, soberly, and industriously. Mr. *John Derby* left 20*s*. a year for bread, to be distributed among the debtors on the four quarter days; this is regularly paid, and applied to the Gaol Charity Fund. The donation of sixpence in money and two pound of beef to every prisoner at Christmas by Mr. *Pleydell*, and the donation of two guineas from Lord *Digby*, have been discontinued several years.

The excellent rules and orders and management of this Prison are fully demonstrated, when, upon an enquiry into the characters of all the Dorsetshire prisoners on charges of felony during a period of 14 years, it appears, that out of 393 of both sexes, there have been found 242 reclaimed, maintaining themselves by honest industry: a striking example this of the beneficial effects of *employment in prison*, and which, it is to be hoped, will be seriously considered by every county, and more especially in those where manufactories have been introduced, and discontinued on account of being in their infant state unproductive. Expectation of emolument by the county from the labours of the prisoners ought not to weigh so forcibly, as the credit of restoring the prisoner to society as a useful member.

Number of prisoners, 1801, Dec. 29, Debtors 3; Felons and petty offenders 80; Oct. 21, 1803, Debtors 9; Felons and petty offenders 55; total 64.

My dear friend, The perusal of these remarks will give you great pleasure. It is here manifest the great good which may be produced by employment and salutary regulations; and it is to be hoped the example of the excellent Visiting Magistrates, in restoring so many prisoners to usefulness in society, will raise a spirit of emulation throughout the kingdom. Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lettsom, London. JAS. NEILD.

NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

LETTER XLII. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, June, 1807.

"Nunquam poteſt non eſſe virtute locus*."
SENECA.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook-court, Apr.* 25.

THERE is not any ſpecies of miſery that occurs in the extent of this Nation without exciting, in ſome individuals, thoſe exertions which are calculated to prevent extenſion, and afford relief. In the department and government of Priſons, this is excellently illuſtrated by the managers of Glouceſter Gaol; to whom may be aptly applied the eulogy of Spenſer:

——————— his office was
Poor priſoners to relieve with gratious ayd,
And captives to redeeme with price of bras
From Turkes and Saracins, which them had ſtay'd; [wayd
And though they faulty were, yet well he
That God to us forgiveth every howre
Much more than that why they in bands were layd;
And he that harrow'd Hell with heavie ſtowre hevenly bowre.
The faulty ſouls from thence brought to his
Faery Queene, b. I. canto x.

The accurate hiſtory communicated by Mr. Neild, requires no illuſtration from the efforts of my pen; and the example afforded by the Magiſtrates of Glouceſterſhire, whilſt it claims the approbation, demands imitation in every ſimilar department throughout the Empire. J. C. LETTSOM.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY GAOL.—Gaoler, *Thomas Cunningham*; ſalary 100 l. for gaol, bridewell, and penitentiary houſe. Fees, for felons, fines, and criminals, none. Fees. Debtors as *per* table. Garniſh aboliſhed. Tranſports, the expence of conveyance is paid by the county. Chaplain, Rev. Edw. Jones; ſalary 50 l.; duty, prayers every Wedneſday and Friday morning, and a ſermon every Sunday, Chriſtmas Day, and Good Friday: ſacrament adminiſtered four times a-year, and daily attendance on thoſe under ſentence of death. Surgeon, Mr. John Pleydell, Wilton; ſalary 47 l. for all deſcription of priſoners.

Number of Debtors 20 Nov. 1802	29
Felons and Criminals	50
Number of Debtors 3 Sept. 1806	28
Felons and Criminals	47
French priſoners	2

Allowance. To debtors, fines, and felons, one pound and a half of good houſehold bread *per* day, and one penny in money. The allowance of diet to priſoners in the Bridewell and Penitentiary, is as follows; *viz.* every morning every priſoner has a loaf of bread (weight 1½ lb.), 1½ oz. of oatmeal and ¼ oz. of ſalt made into gruel, for his breakfaſt. Sundays and Thurſdays, ¾ lb. of beef (without bone), and 1 lb. of potatoes, for his dinner. Monday and Friday, ¾ pint of peaſe made into ſoup with the liquor of the preceding days. Tueſday, 2 lb. of potatoes, or ¼ lb. of cheeſe. Wedneſday, 1½ oz. of rice and 1½ oz. of oatmeal, and on Saturday ¼ lb of cheeſe. The women have 1 oz. of tea and 2 oz. of ſugar *per* week.

Remarks. The boundary wall encloſes near three acres of ground; and the priſons conſiſt of the Gaol, the Bridewell, and the Penitentiary. In the front is the Turnkey's lodge; on the ground-floor of which is a fumigating-room, a guard-room, porter's-room and pantry, a bake-houſe, and a warm and cold bath. Up ſtairs, two rooms for flour and wheat, and four reception-

* There muſt be ever a place for exerciſing virtue.

reception-cells, each 7 feet 6 inches by 6 feet. Two rooms for prisoners cloaths; one for irons, locks, bolts, &c. and the porter's sleeping-room. On the flat roof above is the place of execution. In the outward gate are two boxes to receive the donations of benefactors; *viz.* "To encourage penitence and orderly behaviour in criminal prisoners," and the other "For the relief of poor debtors." A small court-yard leads to the Gaoler's house; on the ground floor is the Magistrates' Committee-room, the kitchen, pantries, and brewhouse, with cellars underneath. Up stairs is a sitting-room and two bed-rooms. On the second story a dispensary and two infirmaries, and a general hospital-room with a fire place at each end: and on the upper story is the foul-ward, which contains three cells for prisoners who have any infectious disorder; the leaden roof of which serves for convalescents to take the air upon, and is one story higher than the rest of the buildings. Between the two chimneys is an alarm bell, which is tolled during the ceremony of execution. There are eleven different courts, of an irregular polygon shape, and between each a small space of garden ground, to prevent conversation between the several classes; they have open wood palisades by which a thorough air is admitted, and the ground being an inclined plane is constantly dry; the distance, about 15 feet from the boundary wall, affords a convenient garden for the growth of vegetables. Debtors have a spacious court, 70 yards long and 19 yard wide, with a colonade at each end, 16 yards by 3½, and two smaller courts; a large day-room, with two fire-places, fitted up with every accommodation for frugal cookery, and two large commodious work-rooms wherein to carry on any trade for their *sole* benefit, if they can procure employment from without: and, if not, they are supplied with work, and paid two third parts of the estimated value of their daily earnings, and the risk of sale remains with the county. The prisoners for debt are in *two* divisions, or classes, one under the *Magistrates protection*, to which all are admitted on their first commitment, but in which no one is suffered to remain but on conforming to rules intended for preservation of their health and morals; the 2nd division (as it is termed), the *Sheriff's Ward.* With prisoners in this class the Magistrates no otherwise interfere, than to protect them against the ordinary means of extortion: the debtors in it "are liable to all such claims and consequences as the Gaoler may, by law or usage, have authority to impose. Each debtor desiring to live under the Magistrates protection has a separate bed-room (fire proof), fitted up with an iron bedstead, a hair mattress, blankets, quilt, and sheets, at the county cost. Those confined in the Sheriff's Ward have the like accommodation, paying the regulated room-rent. There are 34 single sleeping-cells, 8 feet by 6, with arched roofs, and furnished as above described, and a large room with five beds, should the number exceed what the cells will accommodate. Master's side debtors have three rooms on the first story for those who can afford to pay as *per* Table. Women debtors have a large room with five beds; and Common-side debtors have two rooms, each containing five beds, on the first story; and one, the same size, on the second story.

The several courts for Felons, &c. (which are in the interior of the prison) are spacious and airy; with arcades and day-rooms to each class, fitted up with every convenience for frugal cookery. There is a wash-house and a common cooking-room for Bridewell and Penitentiary prisoners, and a court-yard where coals are deposited, and, likewise, a large wheel, worked by the prisoners, for forcing water into four reservoirs, from which every part of the prison is supplied with water. The washing is done by the female convicts, who have a drying-ground, and three rooms to dry the cloaths in wet weather.

There is a Task Master, (or Manufacturer), who has a salary of 50 l. *per annum*: he likewise acts as Assistant to the Gaoler. A sale shop for finished goods, a large room where the bedding is manufactured, another for weaving, and a third for picking hair made use of in the mattresses; a taylor's shop, a store-room for pease, for cloathing, for pots, paint, &c. Penitentiary prisoners have three courts, into which 16 work-cells open; and there are two passages, or lobbies, five feet wide, which lead into these courts, each containing five work-cells; in all 26. These are heated by brick flues, with

with a thermometer to regulate the warmth.

The ground-floor, the firſt and ſecond ſtory, have each a day-room (about 16 feet ſquare) for State Priſoners; with fire-places and glazed windows. The priſon contains 178 ſleeping-cells, and two for the refractory, dark, but well ventilated. Criminals ſleep ſingle; have an iron bedſtead, ſtraw mattreſs, and a hair mattreſs with 16 lb. of hair in each, two blankets, a pair of ſheets, and night-cap, and a coverlet lined with flannel; the ſheets and night-cap clean every month.

All priſoners attend divine ſervice except prevented by illneſs; and enter the Chapel by ſeparate doors to their ſeveral claſſes, where they are ſeated out of ſight of each other. Beſides the ſervice, noted in its place, prayers are read the four other days in the week by the Keeper; who then diſtributes the daily allowance of bread and money to every priſoner who appears clean, and has behaved decently at chapel. At my viſit, 1802, I made the following remarks: "From the time the County Gaol was opened in July 1791 until 1800, priſoners committed, about 1300; and conſtantly confined in it, on an average, 100. In the nine years deaths 18; of theſe four ſunk under the effects of diſeaſe brought into priſon with them. The night-cells (built with brick), reſting on an arch and arched over, ſo that no air can enter them but through the opening near the crown of the arch provided for it, and by the ſides of the wooden ſhutter, from being imperfectly fitted, are neceſſarily dry, as air is conſtantly paſſing immediately under and round them on every ſide. Farenheit's thermometer being in the middle region of one of theſe cells, where a priſoner was ſleeping, has never in the ſevereſt night been obſerved to be below 33; and no complaint of old or young, male or female, of ſuffering by cold in them has been made."

My dear Friend, *Glouceſter, Sept.* 4, 1806.

THE power delegated to the Magiſtrates for public benefit in the police of Priſons, appears to have been exerciſed here with great care and diſcernment. The qualities of the man, from the Head Gaoler to the loweſt officer, ſeem to have fitted him for the ſituation in which he is placed. The excellent rules, orders, and regulations, are literally obeyed. Silence and obedience reign through the whole priſon; good behaviour ſecures every comfort which can attend the privation of liberty; and ſatisfaction is viſible in every countenance.

In its POLITY it has arrived at the higheſt pitch of excellence and perfection. By the police of this priſon reſpecting debtors, it is conſidered as the beſt expedient to guide them to good by the proſpect of benefits; ſuch as compounding their debts, ſuing for ſixpences, or ſuperſedeas, remiſſion of fees, &c.; and no otherwiſe to puniſh their irregularities but by removing them from a participation of thoſe benefits: and it is much to be regretted that ſome *preciſe orders* are not eſtabliſhed in every priſon, for the conduct of debtors. Their irregularities frequently embarraſs the Keepers for want of knowing how to treat them.

Yours, &c. JAS. NEILD.

Dr. Lettſom, London.

NICHOLS *and* SON, *Printers, Red Lion Paſſage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER XLIII. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, June, 1807.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, June* 19.

"Nec sibi sed toto gentium se credere mundo*." LUCAN.

ALTHOUGH the subsequent history is so complete as neither to require further illustration nor animadversion †; yet I cannot but repeat with pleasure the humane conduct of Mr. Gye in rendering his press subservient to the calls of distress, which might otherwise have remained unknown, and unrelieved. And let me not at the present moment forget the medium which "The Gentleman's Magazine" has afforded of diffusing similar benefits in a more universal manner, as they have been extended to almost every Prison in the Empire; and if Mr. Urban disclaim the expression of public gratitude, it ought to be recorded that by his aid the statue of Howard was raised in the Cathedral of the Metropolis; and, perhaps, a single letter inserted in 1780 ‡ gave rise to the interesting institution of "The Literary Fund for the Benefit of Authors;" and thus, in numerous instances, this Repository of science has become the vehicle of philanthropy, and the medium of extending public good on the genuine principles of humanity.

J. C. LETTSOM.

COUNTY GAOL at VELCHESTER.—Gaoler, *Edward Scadding*, salary 125 l. Fees, felons 13 s. 4 d. debtors 14 s. 4 d. besides which the Under-sheriff demands 6 s. 8 d. for his *liberate*. Chaplain, Rev. *Thomas Rees*; duty, prayers and sermon every Sunday; salary 50 l. Surgeon, *Mr. Poole*; salary none, makes a bill. Allowance to Debtors and Felons, each a six-penny loaf *per* day, *weight* 27th December, 1801, 2 *lb.* 7 *oz.* Number of Prisoners, 1800, April 7th: 28 debtors, 36 felons, &c. 1801, December 27th: 29 debtors, 34 felons.

This Gaol, which is likewise the COUNTY BRIDEWELL, is situate near the river, and great part of it is surrounded by a boundary wall; which, whilst it adds to its security, affords to the Keeper a convenient garden for the growth of vegetables. The Turnkey's Lodge fronts the river, is on the left of the entrance gate, and there is a warm and cold bath on the right. Over these and the gateway are three sleeping-rooms. A small garden leads to the Gaoler's House; which, though situate in the centre of the building, commands but a very small part of the prison. It has a Cupola on the top, with a bell, which serves for the Chapel, or for alarm.

There are five court-yards, the first of which, on the right hand, is for those who are committed for petty offences, or until they pay a fine, and through which all must pass to the debtor's apartments; the pump, which is in a small yard adjoining, and supplies the whole prison with excellent spring water, is another means of intercourse. On the ground floor there are arcades for the prisoners in wet weather; over these are two stories,

* To think that he was born, not for himself, but for the world.

† Except the Postscript concluding my friend's letter, which I shall recall to attention in a subsequent Essay.

‡ Intituled, "Hints for establishing Society for promoting useful Literature." Gent. Mag. vol. L. p. 183.

to which you ascend by a stone staircase, each containing five cells, 8 feet by 7, and 8 feet 6 inches high, fitted up with perforated iron bedsteads, straw (changed once a month, or oftener if necessary), a blanket, and a coverlet. Each cell has a double door, the outer iron-grated, the inner wood, which opens into a passage of four feet wide, the windows of which (four) look into the court. These cells have each a semicircular window, half glazed and half open, with sloping boards, and look into the Keeper's garden; there is likewise an aperture in the wall, 18 inches by 9, for light and ventilation, in all except two, which are dark, and intended for the refractory. In this part of the prison common-side debtors sleep, but in the day-time are allowed the use of the master's-side debtors court, as well as the mess-room and fire. Adjoining to the Arcades is the Keeper's Cellar, and over it two stories, each containing six cells fitted up, &c. as those before described; these are appropria ed to fines and petty offences. Master's-side debtors have a day-room and mess-room about 20 feet by 12 each, with seventeen lodging-rooms above, capable of accommodating thirty persons, for which they pay as *per* Table; behind this building is a spacious court-yard where they play at fives, skittles, &c. On the left entrance is the Male Felon's Yard, with iron palisades towards the small garden in front of the Keeper's house. On the ground-floor there is a place for coals, a large day-room (to which the County allows coals in severe weather), with arcades to walk under when it rains. Over these are two stories, each containing eight cells of the same size, and fitted up in the same manner as those already mentioned, with ten pounds of clean wheat straw every week.

The Women Debtors Court is 18 yards by 6, and was intended for the use of sick prisoners; it is separated from the *Men Felons* by a single iron palisade only, through which they can see and converse with each other. They have arcades under which they walk in wet weather; and over these are their two sleeping-rooms, and two infirmary-rooms. On the upper story are five cells, which, with six over the Chapel, are appropriated to the most orderly of Criminal Prisoners, and have boarded floors. The Chapel, to which there is access through the Keeper's house, is on the felons' side of the prison, and the women convicts are out of sight of the other prisoners; the women debtors and criminals are seated in the gallery; the men debtors sit underneath; and the rest of the ground-floor is occupied by prisoners of all descriptions. The debtors are not obliged to go to Chapel; and only eight out of twenty fines attended divine service when I was there.

Women Felons. This court is rather larger than that of the men felons, and completely separated from it. There is a pump in it, but seldom used, because the water is not very good. On the ground-floor are fourteen cells, 10 feet by 7 feet 6 inches, and 8 feet 6 inches high, and a day-room. On the upper story there is the same number of cells, and a lodge for a Woman Turnkey, who attends on the female prisoners, and is paid a weekly salary by the county. All the upper cells open into an iron-railed gallery; and have wood bedsteads, with straw and blankets, according to the season. In the garden is the Engine-house, by which reservoirs are filled, and the whole prison supplied with soft water, through pipes conveyed into the respective courts. Prisoners are washed, shaved, and have a clean dowlas shirt every week; there is county cloathing provided, with brown and yellow stripes, but not being compelled to wear it they make every shift to do without, very few of the prisoners having it on at my visit. The Sewers are judiciously placed, and not offensive. The whole prison is white-washed once or twice a year, as occasion requires or the cells occupied. The average number of prisoners the last seven years 78, in which period six only have died. Convicts have the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. The Act for the Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, both hung up. No employment furnished by the county; but three debtors who were handicraft trades were at work. The fifty shillings formerly paid from a legacy of Mr. *Kelson*, of Norton, to the poorest debtors at Midsummer, has been long discontinued, and I could get no information concerning it, no memorial being hung up. Assizes are never held here; the Spring Assize always at Taunton; the Summer at Bridgewater and Wells, alternately.

At

At Taunton and Wells the Keepers lodge their prisoners at separate inns. At Bridgewater the prison is only one room under the Town Hall, straw on the floor, and where I was informed fifty prisoners had been confined six days. For the conveyance of transports the Keeper is allowed one shilling *per* mile each. This is the only prison in the county, except Bristol, to which there is *now* a Chaplain; formerly there was one at Taunton and Shepton-Mallet, and the County had generously gone to the limit of the Act by a salary of 50 l. to each, but the Chaplains having neglected their duty, the Justices first reduced the salary, and afterwards took the whole off.

Ilchester,
My dear friend, *Dec.* 28, 1801.

This prison, situate in a remote corner of the County, on the banks of the river Yeovil, subjects its inhabitants, particularly debtors and fines, to many and great inconveniences; too far removed from their friends to receive occasional gratuities, and no manufactory in the town to afford them employ, they have an abundant claim to pity. Mr. Gye, the humane printer of the Bath paper, frequently represents their distressed situation, and receives benefactions for their relief; and it is a fortunate circumstance that the Keeper is attentive and humane.

Believe me yours most sincerely,

JAMES NEILD.

P. S. I have just had the luxury of releasing a debtor, who was detained for his prison fees: his plaintiff had forgiven him his debt, but there was another demand of six shillings by the under-sheriff for *his liberate*, which I was obliged to pay before the prisoner could be set at liberty.

To Doctor Lettsom, London.

J. NICHOLS *and* SON, *Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER XLIV. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, October, 1807.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, Sept. 20.*

L'Agriculture, et les Arts, ſont abſolument nèceſſaires pour preſerver le peuple de l'oiſiveté, qui enfante les diſcordes, la molleſſe, et tous les maux ruineux pour la ſocietè *.

Ramſay, Les Voyages de Cyrus, l. iv.

IT is a frequent queſtion, "What conduces moſt to Health and Happineſs?" Perhaps the anſwer might be, "the two things mankind take the moſt pains to avoid, Labour and Abſtinence." That degree of labour which may be hard without being oppreſſive, and that quantity of food which ſuffices to ſupport nature without loading the ſtomach; and hence benign in its effects, is the injunction of the Creator, "In the ſweat of thy face thou ſhalt eat thy bread †." Yet how few adopt this divine and ſalutary command!

Whilſt we view with ſatisfaction the excellent management of Shrewſbury Gaol, it might be ſuggeſted to the Magiſtrates and Managers of the Houſe of Induſtry, whether indulgence, in plenty afforded the children, may not unfit them for the laborious ſituation they are deſigned to occupy, inſtead of being enabled, by early initiation, to know that hard work and hard living are the natural allotments of their rank in ſociety; for, if I miſtake not, landholders are compelled, under penalty for refuſal, to take prentices from the county houſes of induſtry; and if thoſe are brought up with the hardſhips of their own families, they might be better enabled to encounter the labours of the farm. At the ſame time let it be underſtood, that Spartan ſeverities are not recommended, nor would they be conducive either to the wealth or happineſs of the youth; for, "Ils alloient la tête, et les pieds nuds, couchoient ſur des roſeaux, et mangeoient très peu. Encore fallait il qu'ils priſſent ce peu par addreſſe dans les ſalles publiques des convives ‡." But apparent hardſhips may be derived from the change which muſt afterwards be experienced in the deprivation or abſtraction of previous indulgences, as intimated in the ſubſequent letter, and ſupported by the apt reflection of an agricultural poet—Virgil:

"—— Pater ipſe colendi
Haud facilem eſſe viam voluit, primuſque per artem
Movit agros, curis acuens mortalia corda §."

J. C. LETTSOM.

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* Agriculture and the Arts ſeem abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve a people from idleneſs, which begets diſcord, effeminacy, and the evils deſtructive of Society.

† Gen. iii. 19.

‡ They went with their heads and feet naked, lay upon reeds, and ate very little; and this little they were obliged to procure by dexterity in the publick banqueting-rooms.

§ The father himſelf of tillage did not wiſh the way to be eaſy; he was the firſt to raiſe the ſoil by art, inciting the human heart by cares.

SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury. Gaoler, *Richard Cartwright*; ſalary 300l. for Gaol and Bridewell; fees as *per* Table; but the Under-ſheriff demands a fee of 7s 6d. upon diſcharge of a common writ, and from thoſe under execution 1s. in the pound, if under 100l.; and if above 100l. then ſixpence in the pound. Felons pay no fees, and garniſh is aboliſhed. Conveyance of Tranſports 1s. a mile. Chaplain, Rev. *W. G. Rowland.* Duty, prayers every Thurſday, and a ſermon on every Sunday, Good Friday, and Chriſtmas Day; ſalary, 70l l. Surgeon, Mr. *William Thomas*; ſalary 50l. For Debtors and Felons. Allowance: Debtors, 1 l. 8 oz. of wheat bread, which is made by the female Convicts, and baked in the Gaol. When wheat is at 11s. the ſtrike, a loaf of 1 lb. 8 oz. coſts the County 2½d. Felons have the ſame allowance of bread, and one penny in cheeſe or butter.

Remarks. This Gaol, which is likewiſe the Houſe of Correction, is near the Caſtle, and was firſt inhabited 1793. The boundary wall encloſes two acres of ground, and is 16 feet high. The entrance in front is called the Porter's Lodge, and over the gate is a buſt of Mr. Howard; in the door are two apertures to receive donations, *viz.* "To Debtors in a ſtate of Induſtry," and "To Priſoners in a ſtate of Reformation." The ground-floor on the left has the Turnkey's apartments, and his ſleeping-rooms are above. On the right hand is a Lazaretto, a hot and cold bath, with an oven to fumigate and purify priſoners' cloaths, which are taken from them on admiſſion, and the gaol uniform put on. Up-ſtairs are two reception-rooms, a room for the irons, and a ſitting-room (with a fire-place) for the Clergyman, who there performs his laſt offices to perſons under ſentence of death, and ſuffer on the flat roof above. The court in front of the Keeper's houſe is about 20 yards ſquare, and the Inner Turnkey's lodge adjoins. Maſter's-ſide Debtors have a court-yard 36 feet ſquare, a day-room 14 feet by 12, and eleven ſleeping-rooms with boarded floors; they ſleep ſingle, and pay 4 s. *per* week for County furniture, but if they furniſh their own beds, 2 s. *per* week. Common-ſide Debtors have a court-yard 70 feet by 39, and a day-room 20 feet by 14, fourteen ſleeping-rooms with boarded floors, to which the County allows a bedſtead, a hair mattreſs, a pair of ſheets, one blanket, and a rug in Summer, and two blankets in Winter; no firing is allowed except the debtor is very poor, but in ſevere weather they have frequently coals given them, the coſt of which is only 7d. *per* hundred. The name of every priſoner who does not attend Divine Service is inſerted in a book kept for that purpoſe. A Manufacturer, or Taſk-maſter, is employed by the County with a ſalary of 40l. *per annum*, who furniſhes work, and deducts one-third of the priſoner's earnings, which is paid to the County Treaſurer; but if the Debtor can have the means of labour brought to him from without the priſon, he receives the whole of his earnings. Female Debtors have a court-yard and eight ſleeping-rooms, and are under the ſame regulations as the men. Two courts and rooms for male and female King's Evidence, and two for male and female refractory priſoners. Tranſports have the King's allowance of 2s. 6d. *per* week. Female Felons before trial have a court yard and 8 ſleeping-cells; after trial they are removed to another court, which has 12 ſleeping-cells. Capital Male Felons before and after conviction have each a ſpacious court about 71 feet by 67, with day-rooms, and 44 ſleeping-cells. Petty Male Felons, before and after conviction, have court-yards the ſame ſize, and 38 ſleeping-cells. Lewd Women and Vagrants have a court-yard and 9 ſleeping-cells. Male and Female Diſorderly Servants and Apprentices, have each their ſeparate courts and 15 ſleeping-cells. Male Vagrants and Deſerters have likewiſe a ſeparate court, and 16 ſleeping-cells. Beſides theſe, there is a detached Infirmary, with ſeparate courts, two day-rooms, and four ſleeping-rooms, for male and female ſick priſoners, where extra food and wine is provided by direction of the Surgeon. Seventy-eight of the Felons cells have double doors, the outer iron-grated, and the inner wood. Each cell has a brick floor, is 8 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 7, and 8 feet 10 inches high, with arched roof, and fitted up with a bedſtead, a canvas or wadd hair mattreſs, filled with ſtraw, a hempen ſheet, two blankets, and a rug, a leather or wooden bucket, and ſtone chamber-pot. There are no ſleeping-cells on the ground-floor. The Chapel is in the centre

centre of the building, and the ſeveral claſſes enter by different doors, and are ſeparated by partitions ſo that they cannot ſee each other. Debtors are in the gallery. On a level with the Chapel are ſix Cells for priſoners under ſentence of death, or ſolitary confinement. All the Cells are well ventilated, and divided by lobbies or paſſages 6 feet wide; the whole priſon is well ſupplied with ſpring water from a pump, and with river water thrown by a pump into a large reſervoir at the top. There are ſeveral work-rooms for men and for women, with ſtore-houſe, ſtore-rooms, bake-houſe, bread-room, and waſh-houſe. A watchman goes round the priſon, and cries the hour, attended by a dog. There is a committee-room for the Viſiting Magiſtrates, who are appointed at the Seſſions. The Act for Preſervation of Health, and Clauſes againſt Spirituous Liquors, are conſpicuouſly hung up. The whole priſon very clean, and excellent rules and orders for its good government. When I attended divine ſervice there, 11th Sept. 1803, all the priſoners were preſent; their behaviour ſilent, and attentive to a very impreſſive diſcourſe. Felons are employed in making ſhoes, ſlippers, gloves, and bottle-ſtands; there are looms likewiſe for Weavers, and the iron machinery for a corn-mill, but for want of a pair of ſtones it is uſeleſs. Priſoners, 3d Nov. 1802, debtors 12, felons, &c. 58. 11th Sept. 1803, debtors 11, felons, &c. 79, deſerters 2, infant children 11—Total 103.

My dear Friend,

YOU will have great pleaſure in reading the account of this excellent Gaol, to which the humane and conſiderate Magiſtrates have paid ſuch laudable attention. There is near this place a noble building, called the Houſe of Induſtry; it certainly is a Houſe of PLENTY, for the Books every where bear record of good living, and the *famous beefs* ſlaughtered there. I am informed the Act incorporates 13 pariſhes, chapelries, and townſhips, and the extent North and South 18 miles, and nearly the ſame Eaſt and Weſt. Now this vaſt diſtrict muſt *neceſſarily* preclude the Directors from being acquainted with the real circumſtances of paupers ſo remote from inſpection, or when the diſtant Out-poor ſhould be taken off their books. In a ſingle pariſh, the Overſeer is perfectly acquainted with every pauper, his wages, ability, connexions, &c. and cannot eaſily be impoſed upon. Owing to this *want of information* and *perſonal acquaintance* with the paupers, their may be great *abuſe of Out-pay*. Particular enquiry impoſes a taſk on the Directors they are unequal to, becauſe they have their own families and concerns to look after. It would be leſs troubleſome and leſe expenſive (in my opinion) for *each pariſh* to provide for its own poor. The average number in the Houſe 340; the children delicate and pampered, from being accuſtomed to *abundance* and *variety* of proviſions, and comfortable rooms, which ſeem ill calculated for the purpoſes of huſbandry, or to make uſeful ſervants to the ſmall farmers in this agricultural County. They would prefer a race of hardy lads, inured from their infancy to combat *weather* and *temporary* want, whoſe nerves are ſtrong by early exertions, and their underſtandings furniſhed with ſome knowledge of Country buſineſs. On this ſubject I could ſay much; but time will not allow it to, dear Sir, yours very ſincerely,

JAMES NEILD.

Dr. Lettſom, London.

J. NICHOLS *and* SON, *Printers, Red Lion Paſſage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER XLV. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, December, 1807.

"Doſt thou, in all thy addreſſes to him, come into his preſence with reverence, kneeling and religiouſly bowing thyſelf before him?"

DUPPA'S Rules to Devotion.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, Dec.* 10.

IN ſome parts of the kingdom, an excuſe may be urged in extenuation of the bad ſtate of the Priſons, from the want of pecuniary means of effecting improvement, as was obſerved on another occaſion. In the opulent City of Briſtol, a juſt plea on this ground cannot be ſuſtained; and yet, ſince the firſt viſits of Howard* and Neild†, not any real improvement has been effected, except the attempt to exclude the rats from moleſting the priſoners. In this City, where a Burke publicly delivered his ſublime apoſtrophe on the labours of Howard, no ſymptoms of emulating his good works have yet appeared. Even the dungeons of their Newgate are equally filthy, and the air of them is not leſs noxious. In a ſea-port town this is particularly dangerous and reprehenſible; for a perſon iſſuing from theſe ſources of contagion may enter on-board a veſſel, and, without apparent diſeaſe, may be ſo embued with infection, as to endanger the whole crew‡.

* November 1776. State of the Priſons, p. 402.

† About the year 1800.

‡ See Howard's State of Priſons, Sect. 1, p. 6.

Among the other evils which attach to Briſtol Newgate, I cannot forego to notice the little attention paid by the Priſoners to their worthy Chaplain, in abſenting themſelves from Divine Service on the Sabbath-day, and the diſregard to decency in polluting the place of worſhip* by making it a drinking-place in the week days. If the Supreme dwell not (not circumſcribed) "in temples made with hands," yet there ought ever to be maintained a devout demeanour in ſuch places where the object of aſſembling is to addreſs the Creator in awful humility and reverential hope of forgiveneſs. Among thoſe we have denominated Idolators, the temples in which the Deity was wont to be invoked were always reſpected, and every thing indecorous excluded. Even the Pſalmiſt, inveſted with regal dignity, declared that he would "rather be a door-keeper in the Temple, than to dwell in the tents of wickedneſs†," awfully obſerving, as he addreſſed the Creator, "in thy fear will I worſhip toward thy holy temple‡." If this temple is wantonly polluted, that humility and reverence which ought to influence the creature in appealing to the Creator, muſt be previouſly extinguiſhed; and unfelt muſt be the ſacred fear inferred by the Pſalmiſt. In a ſtate ſo loſt, depraved,

* See Priſon Letters, XI. XII. XVII. and XVIII.

† Pſalm lxxxiv. 10.

‡ Pſalm v. 7.

and

and hardened, powerful and impreſſive indeed muſt be the pious exertions of the Paſtor to convey feeling to a heart of ſtone. J. C. LETTSOM.

BRISTOL City and County Gaol. Gaoler, *William Humphries*; ſalary 200 l. Gown-money 2 l. a-year. Fees: Debtors, firſt action 6 s. 8 d. ſecond, and every ſubſequent one 3 s. 4 d.; a London action 9 s. Felons 13 s. 4 d. Tranſports 5 l. each when delivered at Portſmouth. Priſoners Allowance: Debtors, none; Felons, a three-penny loaf of ſtandard wheaten bread, weight, December 16, 1801, 1 lb. 5 oz.; Sept. 20, 1806, 1 lb. 3 oz. Garniſh aboliſhed. Number of priſoners Dec. 16, 1801: Debtors 18, Felons, &c. 26; October 4, 1803, Debtors 24, Felons, &c. 26, Deſerters 2; Sept. 20, 1806, Debtors 33, Felons, &c. 27. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Day*; duty, ſermon every Sunday, and prayers on Wedneſday and Friday (ſee Remarks), ſalary 35 l. Surgeon, Mr. *Safford*; ſalary none, he makes a bill.—Remarks. This Newgate is built upon a declivity, and ſtands in the midſt of the City. It is very old, and much too ſmall for the general number of priſoners. The lower rooms are dark. For Debtors there are fifteen large and airy rooms, two of which are *free wards* for poor Debtors, who find their own beds. Thoſe on the Maſter's ſide pay 2 s. 6 d. *per* week each; two ſleep in a bed. No proper ſeparation of men and women. Only one court-yard (called the *Tennis court)*, ſufficiently large for air and exerciſe; it is thirteen yards by ſix, and into which Debtors and Felons are, at different hours of the day, ſeparately admitted. In this court is a convenient bath, but ſeldom uſed, and a pump with good water. Men Felons have two day-rooms. To the firſt, which is 15 feet by 13, and 7 feet 8 inches high, adjoins a ſleeping-room about the ſame ſize, which has no air but what is admitted through the iron-grated window of the day-room; there is a ſmall court adjacent, 20 feet by 12, very cloſe. On one ſide of this court, up 12 ſteps, is a ſick-room for Felons, 18 feet by 6 ½, and 7 ½ high, with iron-grated and glazed windows and a fire-place, a ſmall aperture in the door 14 inches by 11, and a ventilator. The ſecond day-room is 24 feet by 18, and 8 feet high, with a fire-place and two treble iron-grated windows which nearly exclude the light; this room has two ſleeping-cells 11 feet by 7, with arched roofs, and a very ſmall court with the ſewer in it. The condemned-room is 18 feet by 13, and 9 feet high, with a double iron-grated window, which looks into the Felons Yard. Their dungeon, the *Pit*, down 18 ſteps, is 17 feet diameter and 8½ feet high; barrack bedſteads with ſtraw in canvas beds; and ſome benevolent gentlemen in the City occaſionally ſend a few rugs. It is cloſe and offenſive; only a very ſmall window with lights ſufficient juſt to make *darkneſs viſible.* It is at preſent (1801) chiefly appropriated to convicts under ſentence of tranſportation; and ſeventeen priſoners ſleep here every night. The Turnkey told me, he was ſo affected by the putrid ſteam which iſſued from the dungeon when he unlocked the door in a morning, it was enough to ſtrike him down: at my viſit, Oct. 1803, only one man ſlept there. When Turnkeys are ſo affected by only opening the doors, what muſt the miſerable wretches confined the whole night in ſuch putrid hot-beds of diſeaſe, ſuffer! Sir George Paul juſtly obſerves, that "a Gaol, being the place of ſafe cuſtody of the diſturbers of our peace and property, rarely attracts our attention as an object of our pity and benevolence; gratified with the thought that it reſtrains the daring murderer, we overlook the gloomy lift it oppreſſes." The Female Felons ward is at the top of the houſe, 14 yards by 8, and 6 ½ feet high; it ſerves the purpoſes of a day-room and ſleeping-room, and overlooks the Men Felons Court; it had four windows, but two of them are ſtopped up. There is a ſink in it, but no water but what is brought from below by the Keeper. Near it are two rooms ſet apart for infirmaries. There are many narrow paſſages; and the utmoſt attention is requiſite to keep the priſon healthy. I found it clean at my ſeveral viſits, conſidering it was ſo crowded and ſo cloſe. It is ſcraped and whitewaſhed once a year. The Act for Preſervation of Health is hung up in the Chapel, which is commodious, and has a gallery. The Clauſes againſt Spirituous Liquors hang up at the entrance of the Gaol. No employment whatever: ſuch, indeed, is the confined ſituation of the Priſon, as to preclude the poſſibility of work! No Table of Gaoler's Fees. Beſides the ſervice noted in its place, there are thirteen ſermons a-year, for

for which the rector of the pariſh receives 4 l. from a Legacy.

Mr. *John Heydon* left 100 l. to be lent to two merchants, each paying annually to the Corporation for the Debtors, as the intereſt of his moiety, 1 l. 13 s. 4 d. Mr. *Freeman* left 4 l. 9 s. to be laid out in bread and beef, and diſtributed on Chriſtmas-eve, to priſoners of all deſcriptions. To this Legacy Mrs. Freeman annually makes an addition of eleven ſhillings.

The churchwardens have for many years paſt annually paid 4 l. 2 s. two thirds of which are given to the Debtors, and one third to the Felons. This I apprehend to be the legacy of Mr. *Aldſworth*, mentioned by Mr. Howard. There is no memorial in the Gaol of any legacy.

A perſon arreſted by an action from the Tolzey Court here, may at the next Court confeſs the debt, and at the firſt Court after (which is held monthly) be charged in execution, and become immediately entitled to his ſixpences or ſuperſedeas.

The Debtors attendance on Divine Service is optional, and I was ſorry to obſerve only 9 out of 33 preſent; nor were the Criminal Priſoners ſo attentive as I ſhould have expected from the devout and ſerious manner in which the duty was performed by the worthy Chaplain. So little regard is paid to the Chapel as a place of worſhip, that I have frequently ſeen the priſoners drinking, ſmoking, and chewing tobacco in the galleries, the filthy effects of which are viſible on the floor. An Act was paſſed ſeveral years ago to build a new Gaol; and it is much to be regretted that it is not carried into execution by this rich commercial City; for really the preſent Gaol is a diſgrace to it.

Briſtol City Bridewell. Part of it is in the Keeper's houſe, on one ſide of the ſtreet, and part on the other ſide. In the Keeper's houſe the Maſter's-ſide Criminals have a day-room on the ground-floor 5 yards ſquare and 10 feet high, and up-ſtairs two rooms, to which the Keeper furniſhes beds at 1 s. *per* night. In theſe three rooms the following notice is painted: "Whoever ſhall write againſt or daub the walls in any manner will be puniſhed as the Magiſtrates ſhall think proper." The Common ſide, the Bridewell, over the way, conſiſts of two parts ſeparated by a court 50 feet by 15, in which there is a pump and ciſtern for hard and ſoft water. The firſt part has on the right hand two cells for vagrants on the ground-floor, each 16½ feet by 6½ feet, an iron-grated window to the Court, and a moſt offenſive ſewer in one corner. The ſleeping-room above large and airy, but the ſtraw on the floor was ſhort, dirty, and almoſt worn to duſt. On the left hand is a room for Fines, 22 feet by 17, and 10 feet high, with an iron-grated window to the Court, and a ſewer not offenſive. Up-ſtairs is a room the ſame ſize. The ſecond part has on the ground-floor right hand two cells 16½ by 6½, and 9 feet high to the crown of the arch, with an aperture a foot ſquare to admit light and air, and an iron grating over each door. The ſewers being near the river are not very offenſive; but they are ſo terribly infeſted by rats, that a cat was kept in each to prevent their gnawing the priſoners feet. Over theſe cells is the Infirmary-room, 22 feet by 17 and 10 feet high, with a fire-place and glazed window. On the left hand is the Woman Vagrant's day-room, 18 feet by 16 and 10 feet high, with a large iron-grated window to the Court; and over it a ſleeping-room the ſame ſize, the ſtraw on the floor had ſerved two ſets of Priſoners; and the floor itſelf was in a more filthy ſtate than I can decently deſcribe. The Court being quite out of ſight of the Keeper's houſe, he does not ſuffer the priſoners to uſe it, nor the pump in it, but three times a week in the middle of the day; yet ſome are impriſoned here three years, and during that time in irons. No employment. Neither Act for Preſervation of Health, nor Clauſes againſt Spirituous Liquors, hung up. Fees 3 s. 6 d. for which the priſoners may be detained. Keeper, *Thomas Millward*, afterwards *John Parſons*; ſalary 30 l. At my viſit 1806, I found *Thomas Evans* appointed Keeper with a ſalary of 50 l. *per ann.* The rats were prevented from annoying the priſoners, the floors mended, the cells whitewaſhed, and the whole priſon very clean. There is no religious attention paid to the priſoners. Surgeon, Mr. *Safford*; he makes a bill. Allowance, a three-penny loaf of houſhold bread *per* day, which I weighed 1 lb. 5 oz. This priſon was built in 1721. Number of priſoners Dec. 17, 1801, 8; Oct. 4, 1803, 16; Sept. 20, 1806, 5.

My

My dear Friend,

It was very natural for me to enquire why new Priſons were not built in this rich commercial City, eſpecially when an Act has been obtained for that purpoſe, and they have ſo excellent a model and example ſet them by the County of Glouceſter (Lawford's Gate) ſcarcely out of the town. I was informed that the lower and many of the middle ranks of people were in ſuch a ferment about the rates to be impoſed, that the more liberal and enlightened inhabitants thought better to poſtpone it. I am, my dear Sir, yours gratefully,

Dr. Lettſom, London. JAMES NEILD.

J. NICHOLS *and* SON, *Printers, Red Lion Paſſage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER XLVI. ON PRISONS.

Extracted from the Gentleman's Magazine, Supplement, 1807.

"——— Facilis descensus Averni,
Sed revocare gradum, superasque evadere ad auras,
Hoc opus, hic labor est*. VIRG.

I WELL recollect a converſation I once had with the celebrated Howard, that it was on viſiting the Gaol at Bedford, he received thoſe impreſſions which excited his future inquiries into the ſtate of Priſons in conſequence of his appointment of high ſheriff of the County in 1770, which officially introduced him into an intimate knowledge of the management of this Priſon †.

From the exertions of Howard, who reſided in the neighbourhood of Bedford, it might be premiſed, that the County Gaol would hence be conducted on a judicious plan, which is now confirmed by the teſtimony of Neild; who ſuggeſts, however, one improvement, the importance of which claims particular attention; that of "a ſmall ſum of money given to each priſoner on his diſcharge, according to the diſtance he is from his home or his friends."

The neceſſity of adopting ſuch a plan muſt be obvious; and, independently of this humane and judicious proviſion, ſome recommendation of a miſerable fellow-creature, where it could with propriety be done, ought to accompany his diſcharge, in order to afford him the means of acquiring further ſupport ‡.

This is ſtill more neceſſary as it reſpects the Female Sex, whoſe labour is chiefly within doors, and with whom character is the only paſſport of admiſſion into a family. To elucidate this ſubject by examples which I cannot but painfully recollect, and the more ſo when I know that means might be applied to leſſen vice and miſery, and to promote morals and happineſs, I am induced to mention a circumſtance which recently led me to viſit Newgate. A young woman of decent family, who had been charged with one of thoſe ſmaller offences to which the Law ſubjects the delinquent to tranſportation, had this ſentence paſſed upon her. The proſecutrix, little expecting ſo ſevere a puniſhment, relented, and pleaded for a mitigation of it: it was, however, in vain. Her friends, to whom I am ſtill perſonally unknown, requeſted by letter my interference in her favour; which occaſioned this viſit to Newgate, where ſhe had been confined about three months. I found her neither depraved by vice, nor vitiated by example. The humane Newman, as well as the worthy Head Turnkey, gave me the moſt favourable relation of her moral behaviour during this period, which encouraged me to ſtate this fact, with other circumſtances which I thought might plead in mitigation of her ſentence, in an addreſs to the Secretary of State.

Confinement in crowded rooms, with anxiety of mind, brought on a dangerous fever, for which my attendance was requeſted. In three rooms on the female felon ſide, upwards of

* The deſcent into hell is eaſy, but to recall your ſteps, and re-aſcend to the upper skies, forms the difficulty and the labour.

† See his excellent Introduction to the State of Priſons, 4to, 1777.

‡ See Priſon Letters, particularly No. XXII. on this intereſting ſubject.

200 women were under confinement, on account of various degrees of criminality, from ſlight miſdemeanors to atrocious vice and depravity; but not an individual was induſtriouſly employed. In paſſing before ſuch an aſſemblage of Females, moſt of whom appeared to be from 20 to 30 years of age, ſome half naked, I could not avoid noticing their courteous behaviour during my viſits. In the paſſage, lined by them, ſome were occaſionally lying, and others ſitting on the ſtone pavement; but all roſe up on my entrance, and reſpectfully courteſied; ſome, who ſurrounded the bed of the patient, paid great attention to her, and kindly adminiſtered every aid in their power. After recovery, this unfortunate female received a pardon; and is at preſent uſefully and induſtriouſly employed, by means of a little opportune aid. I am the more encouraged to introduce this recital, as affording in ſome meaſure the evidence of the remains of moral and humane ſentiment in theſe miſerable women; and I doubt not but that with proper attention and inſtruction moſt of them might be reformed, and reſtored again to ſociety. But, alas! the proper inſtruction was, perhaps, never afforded, and never will be, except puniſhment and indiſcriminate confinement be called inſtruction! Some may find their paſſage to New South Wales! Some may be puniſhed with ſtripes, and then let looſe upon the publick, without character, decent cloathing, or money! Let me aſk the reader, how he imagines that theſe outcaſts can procure a livelihood? Will any individual houſekeeper of character receive them under their roof? No; not one. What muſt be the reſult? Either death by famine, or ruin by theft or proſtitution! Why do not the publick awaken from apathy? Humanity is characteriſtic in thoſe above want; but there would be infinitely fewer occaſions of exerciſing it, were converſion more ſtudied than conviction and puniſhment.

In the individual inſtance of the Female I have alluded to, I requeſted a friend to accompany me to Newgate. Sutor, the worthy Head Turnkey, accommodated us with a private room to retire into. After a ſuitable pauſe, my friend, in an affectionate addreſs, conveyed inſtruction in that impreſſive manner, as drew floods of penitential tears; and that temptation will never ſtifle, nor time efface, the ſalutary counſel, is the belief of

J. C. Lettſom.

Bedford County Gaol. *John Moore Howard*, Gaoler; ſalary 100l. and for Houſe of Correction 90l. Fees, as *per* Table. Removal of tranſports to Woolwich, 5l. each, and to Portſmouth the expence of conveyance. Garniſh aboliſhed. Chaplain, Rev. *Thomas Cave*. Duty; prayers and ſermon on Sunday, and prayers on Thurſday; ſalary 40l. Surgeon, Mr. *Champion*; ſalary 40l. for Debtors and Felons, and Houſe of Correction. Allowance: Debtors, two quartern loaves a week each; Felons, two half-peck loaves a week each, which I weighed at my ſeveral viſits, and found full weight. Number of Debtors 1801, Auguſt 19th, 5; Felons 12; petty Offenders 4: 1802, January 26th, Debtors 4, Felons 6, petty Offenders 9: 1806, July 14th, Debtors 11, Felons 3, petty Offenders 9: 1807, September 1ſt, Debtors 4, Felons 1, petty Offenders 9.

Remarks. This Gaol, firſt inhabited 17th June, 1801, is in a good ſituation, juſt out of the town. The entrance to the Priſon is the Turnkey's Lodge, a handſome ſtone building, with a ſitting-room on one ſide, and on the other a warm and cold bath, and an oven to purify infected cloaths. Up-ſtairs is the Turnkey's ſleeping-room, and a room where the County cloathing is put on, and the priſoners' ticketed and hung up till diſcharged: there is likewiſe a reception-cell for the priſoner till he is examined as to his health previous to his admiſſion into the interior; and at the top is the flat roof, and place of execution.

After paſſing through the Lodge, you proceed through a ſmall garden of 32 feet to the Keeper's houſe, which is in the centre of the priſon. On the ground floor is the Gaoler's parlour, kitchen, and pantry: and behind them a place called the Hall, in which the Act for preſervation of health, and clauſes againſt ſpirituous liquors, are conſpicuouſly painted on a board, and hung up; and likewiſe weights and ſcales for the uſe of the priſon. Into this Hall, three lobbies, five feet wide, open; over the entrance-gate of one is inſcribed in ſtone, "Men Felons and Convicts;" the other, "Women Felons and Debtors;" and the third, "Houſe of Correction." Each lobby contains two day-rooms, which open into ſix court-

court-yards for the ſeveral claſſes, one day-room for men, the other for women, with glazed windows, and fire-places, to which coals are allowed the ſix winter months: they are fitted up with benches and cupboards for proviſion; and cooking utenſils and towels, &c. are provided by the conſiderate Magiſtrates; and in each lobby are four work-cells. Criminals are employed in beating hemp, and receive no part of their earnings. Debtors ſometimes get employment from without, and receive all they earn.

Over the Hall is a room the ſame ſize, in which County cloathing is depoſited; and there are three lobbies the ſame as below; two of them with eight ſleeping cells for Felons and Houſe of Correction priſoners, and the third has ſix ſleeping-rooms for poor Debtors, two of which are 13 feet by 8, and four 10 feet by 8, with fire places and glazed windows, fitted up with iron bedſteads, ſacking bottoms, a ſtraw bed, a blanket, and a rug, *gratis*, at the County expence. There are rooms for the better accommodation of thoſe who can pay, furniſhed by the Keeper at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week a ſingle bed; or if two ſleep together 2*s.* each; or if the Debtor furniſhes his own bedding and ſheets, 1*s.* 6*d.* *per* week. On the ſecond, or attic ſtory, the Chapel is in the centre, where priſoners are ſeated in their reſpective claſſes, and all are required to attend divine ſervice, unleſs prevented by illneſs. Three lobbies, the ſame as the others, open into the Chapel; the firſt for Felons and Convicts, with eight ſleeping-cells, the ſecond for Houſe of Correction priſoners, with eight ſleeping-cells, and the third has two ſtore-rooms, and two rooms with boarded floors, 14 feet 8 by 10 feet 6, and 9 feet 8 inches high, with fire-places and glazed windows, ſet apart for Infirmaries; and at the top of the building is an alarm-bell.

Criminal priſoners have 32 ſleeping-cells, 9 feet 4 inches by 6 feet 9, and 10 high, light, airy, and clean, fitted up with iron bedſteads, ſtraw beds, two blankets and a coverlit. Each cell has a double door, the outer iron-grated, the inner wood. They are ſhaved, and have clean linen, every week. For the different claſſes of priſoners there are ſix airy court-yards, the average ſize 54 feet by 30, with open wood paliſades about 17 feet diſtant from the boundary wall; a pump in every court, and the whole priſon well ſupplied with water. Tranſports *have not* the king's allowance of 2 s. 6 d. per week.

Bedford Town Gaol is ſituated near that for the County; *James Caſtleman*, Gaoler,—he is Mace-bearer; ſalary, none; fees, none. Surgeon, from the town if wanted. Allowance, a half-quartern loaf *per* day. Remarks: There is a houſe for the Keeper, and two court-yards; one for men, the other for women, each 38 feet by 14. A day-room with a fire-place opens into each court, which has likewiſe two ſleeping-cells, 10 feet by 6 feet 4 inches, and eleven feet high to the crown of the arch; the wood bedſtead is made to hold three perſons, and to each looſe ſtraw and a blanket is allowed; over the door of the ſleeping-cells there is an iron-grated aperture, 18 inches by 10. A buſhel of coals per week is allowed to both day-rooms, from Michaelmas to Lady-day. No employment. Neither the act for preſervation of health, nor the clauſes againſt ſpirituous liquors, hung up. Priſoners 1ſt September 1807, none.

My dear Friend,

The account of this excellent County Gaol will no doubt be very pleaſing to you; but, as a ſmall ſum of money given to each priſoner on diſcharge, according to the diſtance he is from home or from his friends, might prevent neceſſity becoming imperious, and immediate recurrence to thoſe acts which brought him there; I cannot but regret a total inattention *here* to this (in my opinion) moſt important article in Priſon polity.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly, James Neild.

Bedford, 2d Sept. 1807.

J. Nichols *and* Son, *Printers, Red Lion Paſſage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER XLVII. ON PRISONS.

"Redire, cum perit, nescit pudor*." SENECA.

THE following History of the Prisons in Wiltshire is so copious in appropriate remarks, as almost to render superfluous any additional observations from my pen: but I cannot well refrain from noticing the prevalent shameless inattention, in allowing the prisoners of each sex, and those of different degrees of criminality, to associate together, in a manner calculated to destroy every moral sentiment of decency, and to render more corrupt those who enter such receptacles of depravity. This, however, is not to be wondered at, *as the Gaol of Salisbury is seldom visited by the Magistrates.* This City claims the residence of many of the Clergy. How often impressively, and with tenderness, does the Author of the Christian Religion recommend to his followers, *to visit the Prisoner* as the reasonable exercise of true piety! J. C. LETTSOM.

DEVIZES, *Wiltshire*, Town Gaol and County Bridewell. Gaoler, *Joseph Draper*. Salary, 100*l*. see the Remarks. Fees, none.—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Leddiard*. Duty, every Sunday. Salary, 20*l*.—Surgeon, Mr. *Gibbs*. Salary, 15*l*. —Number of Prisoners: 1801, Dec. 15, 2 debtors, 41 felons, &c. 1 lunatick, 1804, July 27, no debtors, 29 felons. &c. 1806, Oct. 15, 2 debtors, 22 felons, &c.—Allowance to debtors, none, unless certificated as paupers. To felons, &c. one pound 12 ounces of best wheaten bread, in loaves to that amount from the baker's, and which I have always found of full weight.

Remarks.—The debtors sent to this Prison are committed by the Court of Requests for the adjacent Hundreds of *Bradford, Melksham*, and *Whorlsdown*. The expence attendant upon their commitment sometimes becomes highly aggravated, frequently exceeds the original debt, and is such as almost to preclude the possibility of a compromise. One of the commitments which I copied in 1801, was as follows: "Debt, 10*s*. 6*d*. costs, 1*s*. 9*d*. additional costs, 11*d*." And the further charge, if the defendant be carried to prison from Calne, which is only seven miles distant, 10*s*. 6*d*. Now, as debtors of this description are never enabled to pay the original debt, and costs, and charges, they must suffer confinement for 20 or 40 days, as prescribed by the Act, to the injury of health, or the destruction of morals. They are not here, as in many county goals, confined amongst other debtors; they ought not therefore to be sent to Bridewells; but so long as this system of imprisonment is cruelly permitted, they should be sent either to the county gaols, or to one purposely built, with an allowance of proper society, of food, and bedding. Here is no separate ward or court-yard for debtors, who therefore must associate (if at all) with felons and criminal offenders. At my last visit, in October 1806, several in the women's ward appeared to be of the most lewd, profligate, and abandoned sort; yet, confined to such association, I found a poor hard-working woman debtor, and a man who had been committed hither from the Court of Requests, and lived in common with the criminals. In this Prison are six court-yards. The principal or felons' is 38 feet by 30. Their day-room 18 feet by 17, and 7 feet high, lighted by one iron-grated window. Over this, their sleeping-room of the same size, 7 feet 6 inches high, with a chimney and ventilator, and good beds and bedding furnished by the keeper at 2*s*. and 1*s*. 6*d*. each *per* week. On a level with the felons' day-room is a work-room 26½ feet by 14, and 7 feet high, with three iron-grated windows: the floor is excavated, and contains two hemp-blocks. Over this is their night-room, of equal size, 6 feet 9 inches high; also with three iron-grated windows, inside shutters, and two ventilators, and containing 14 beds. From this court-yard you enter into a lobby, 21 feet by 10, and 9 feet 6 inches high, leading to 12 cells, six on each side of a passage, five feet wide. The cells are 10 feet by 7, lighted by an

* When Modesty is once extinguished, it knows not a return.

iron

iron-grated window; and each fitted up with two ventilators, a crib bedstead, straw-in-canvas bed, and one blanket. These cells are encircled by a narrow court-yard.

Adjoining to the women felons' ward is a court-yard of 50 feet by 20, and a day-room 21 feet by 16 feet 9 inches, and 7 feet 2 inches high. In this ward were nine women and two children confined. Above it is their sleeping-room, of the same size, with two iron-grated windows, five beds, and a chimney-piece. The Infirmary, 22 feet 6 inches by 16 feet, and 7 feet 4 inches high, consists of two rooms above each other; the higher one, with a boarded floor, appropriated to the women, the other stone-floored, assigned for the men: they have each a fire-place, with two iron-grated glazed windows, and are well ventilated. In the men's infirmary was one poor lunatick; the infirmary court-yard is 23 feet by 27. The court-yard belonging to those committed for misdemeanors is 38 feet by 32, and has two hemp-blocks placed under the arcades. Their day-room, 38 feet by 16, and 7 feet 6 inches high. Sleeping-room 25 feet by 16, and of the same height as the former; each having three iron-grated windows and two ventilators. The Chapel is small and neat: the women have a separate gallery to themselves, opposite the pulpit. There is a day-room in every court-yard, with fire-place in each, *but no fuel allowed.* The sleeping-cells are well ventilated, and fitted up with a wooden bedstead, straw in sacking case, and a blanket each, for every prisoner, laid on the boarded floors. Notwithstanding the work-rooms and hemp-blocks, here is seldom any employment in this prison; yet the keeper told me he had at one time 64 prisoners under his care. If they can procure work, they receive half of their earnings, and the County has the other half, deducting only one penny in every shilling, which is allotted to the keeper for his trouble. Out of his salary of 100*l. per annum*, the keeper furnishes conveyance of all prisoners to and from the Quarter Sessions. These are held successively, at the Devizes in January, Salisbury in April, Warminster in July, and Marlborough in October. Also conveyance to the Assizes, held at Salisbury in March and July. At the Summer Assizes in 1801, the number of prisoners conveyed by him out of his salary amounted to *twenty-six.* He likewise, from the same, provides straw, mops, brooms, pails, and brushes, for lodging the prisoners and keeping the gaol clean; and he has no allowance for a turnkey.

His expenditures in 1803 were, I understand, as follows:

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
At the Lent Assize - -	8	1	6
Easter Sessions - - -	9	9	0
Trinity Sessions - - -	9	10	6
Summer Assize - - - -	5	16	6
Michaelmas Sesions - -	6	6	0
Christmas Sessions at Devizes, and for turnkey, straw, mops, &c. -	36	0	0
	75	3	6
Leaving a clear salary of only	24	16	6
L.	100	0	0

The Corporation provides no bedding for debtors, nor is any fuel allowed even in winter.

Of the six court-yards, that only which is for the felons can be viewed by the keeper from his windows. The area of one of them is nearly occupied by sleeping-cells. Each court-yard has a sewer, and water. The prison is white-washed once a year. Here is a bath of stone, with a boiler for supplying water warm or cold. An oven also is provided for purifying the prisoners' cloaths: but, according to the keeper's account, it has never been used. No rules and orders. The Act for preserving Health is printed, but not hung up; but the Clauses against the use of Spirituous Liquors are. A palisaded fence was wanted before the back-door of the keeper's house. If a latticed partition and door were made in the criminals' court, about six feet from the keeper's door, it would prevent prisoners from rushing out, of which, as he told me, he was sometimes afraid. As this ill-constructed building, however, is expected to be taken down, and ground is purchased to erect a new one in a better situation, a more ample description of every particular is needless.

Salisbury County Gaol, and Bridewell. Keeper, formerly James Waight, now *John Willis*; salary, 150*l.* Fees, as *per* Table; besides which the Undersheriff demands 6*s.* 8*d.* for his *Liberate!* Garnish for debtors on the Master's side, 2*s.* Common side, 1*s.*—Chaplain, late Rev. John Malham, now *Rev. Mr. Harrison.* Duty, Sunday, prayers

prayers and sermon; salary 50*l.* (see Remarks.)—Surgeon, heretofore Mr. Still, now *Mr. Fisher.* Salary 21*l.*

The average number of prisoners in the last 6 or 7 years: debtors, 14; felons, 16; petty offenders, 6. Allowance (see Remarks), formerly to debtors, none; but in 1804 the Magistrates humanely granted to the poor or common side 1½lb. of bread each *per* day, and at Easter Sessions increased it to 1¾lb. It is sent in loaves to that amount from the baker's, and I found them full weight. Felons and petty offenders have a loaf daily of best wheaten bread, weight 1lb. 10 oz.

Remarks.—The prison of this City, called *Fisherton Anger Gaol,* takes its name from the parish in which it stands, near a fine stream; and is also one of the County Bridewells. On the outer gate, towards the street, is painted, *Pray remember the poor Debtors' box.* Their court-yard, which is separated from that of the felons by a double-iron palisade (placed at such a distance as to prevent their conversing with each other) is sufficiently large to admit of the debtors' playing at tennis, fives, &c. There is no day-room either for them or felons, but two might very conveniently be made where the cart-house and stables now stand.

For Master's-side debtors there are four rooms in the keeper's house; one of which, 17 feet square, has a fire-place in it, and four beds at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week; two sleep in a bed. If any debtor has a room and bed to himself, he pays 5*s.* *per* week. Common side debtors have only one room to eat and sleep in; size, 20 feet by 16; formerly without bedding, or even straw; but in 1804 the County kindly allowed a straw-in-canvas bed, and two blankets, to every poor debtor *gratis.* There is a fire-place, but *no firing allowed*: the room was extremely dirty, not having been white-washed for many years. Over this are two rooms (to which the ascent is by a stone staircase from the court-yard) set apart for infirmaries; they also have fire-places, but were equally dirty as the former, and filled with lumber. In the smaller one women-debtors are confined. At my last visit in 1807, I found this room clean, and a woman in it.

The felons' court-yard is separated from that of the debtors, on one side by a wall, and on the other by palisades, as above noticed. It is 65 feet by 34, and at the upper end of it are four small arches, for the prisoners to stand under, if it be rainy when they are let out. Their sleeping-wards are close to the river, and consist of three stories: that on the ground-floor has 12 cells, of about 10 feet 6 inches by 9 feet 6, and 9 feet high to the crown of the arch. Each cell has two wooden doors, the inner one, with an iron-grated aperture, of 7 inches by 4; and on the opposite side of the cell is an iron-grated window, with inside shutters. Each cell contains a wooden bedstead, straw-in-sacking bed, and one or two blankets. The floors are of brick, and the cells open into a narrow passage, hardly three feet wide. The next story contains 16 cells, and the upper story the same number. In the centre of each story is a sewer, with a water-pipe well supplied, to prevent its being offensive. On the two upper stories the turnkeys have their sleeping-rooms; and at the top of the whole building is an alarm-bell. The Chapel is on the debtors' side of the prison, and has a pew for the gaoler, but no gallery. The debtors are placed on one side, the felons on the other, and the women in the middle; in sight of, and almost close to each other. Any debtor refusing to attend Chapel is locked up during divine service; and it is the custom here to lock up every debtor in his room from two o'clock on Sunday till four, that the turnkey might go to church. Since the appointment of a new chaplain, the sacred service has been regularly performed. Previously, however, great complaints were made of the remissness in this respect; which, exclusive of other considerations, was doubly cruel, as it deprived the prisoners of wholesome air, by their being locked up the whole day. In fact, this gaol has received little improvement since Mr Howard visited it in the year 1788; and *it still retains all the severities of the old school.* This, however, is the less to be wondered at, as the gaol is seldom visited by the Magistrates. The old keeper (now dead) paid no attention to my remarks in the several visits I made for years together. Security from escape by main force seemed to be his chief, and indeed his only object. At my last visit, his widow said, "that during the whole time her husband kept the gaol, which, I think, was 26 years, there had not been

been *one escape.*" From what I had seen this did not surprize me; but I was never able to learn the number of deaths within its walls; nor, indeed, could I procure any book or account relative to it. There were no Rules and Orders; and it was with much difficulty that in 1802 I could make out the following useful document, which is now *not legible.*

"TABLE OF FEES.

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
For entering and discharging every action, on process, *capias* or *latitat* - -	1	0	0
Entering and discharging of every second action	0	10	0
Entering and discharging every *capias utlegat.* -	0	10	0
To the under-keeper, or turnkey, each action or writ	0	1	0

Felons' fees are abolished."

There does not appear to be any examination made either into receipts or disbursements in this gaol; the whole seems to rest with the keeper. I could obtain no account of the several monies arising from *donations to the prison,* since my visit in 1802, to the last. The Gaoler said they were lost, or destroyed. From the only book extant, I copied as follows:

31st Dec. 1806. Balance due to the prisoners -	18	0	2½
1807. Collected by the turnkey's box -	10	8	0
Rev. Dr. Ekins, dean of Sarum - - -	1	1	0
A Lady unknown -	1	1	0
Interest of Mrs. Smith's Legacy - - -	1	15	0
Grand Jury, Lent Assize	1	13	6
Mr. Beeby, expences of a prosecution - -	1	1	0
John Paul Paul, esq. High Sheriff, 1806 -	5	5	0
7th May. Members for the county *5l. 5s.* ditto for city *5l. 5s.* - -	10	10	0
Grand Jury, Summer Assize - - -	1	5	6
L.	52	0	8½

Of the chaplain's salary of *50l.* twenty pounds *per annum* is paid by Lord Weymouth, as the bequest of Thomas Thynne, esq. who long since bound for the payment of it the manor of Wrobly and Ross, in the county of Hereford. The bequest was recognized by his Lordship in a deed of settlement, dated November 2, 1709. The Bishop of Salisbury sends every Christmas forty shillings worth of meat, and twenty shillings worth of bread. The Earl of Pemboke pays a legacy of *5l.* a year, out of the manor of Swallow-Cliff in this county, part to the chaplain himself, *viz.* a guinea for a hat; and the remainder to be by him distributed amongst all descriptions of prisoners. The one pound fifteen shillings, being the interest of *50l.* left by Mrs. Smith of Salisbury, is likewise divided amongst them. No memorial of any legacy is displayed or hung up in the gaol. Every Christmas one of the turnkeys goes through the city and adjacent parts with the box before-mentioned. The collection, when I was there in 1802, amounted to *9l. 18s. 4d.*; and it is regularly laid out by the keeper (as he informed me) in purchasing meat for the felons.

I cannot close this narrative without a few remarks on the *felons' gaol.* Their cells are very damp, and the lobbies, or passages, only three feet wide. Young novices in vice and inveterate offenders, vagrants, and faulty servants, are alike promiscuously confined here; and when let out for airing, it is *but for one hour only* out of the 24. I happened to be there during that hour in the wintry month of January 1802. There was a heavy fall of snow, sleet, and rain, and it was most extremely cold; and yet, upon opening their door, the prisoners (17 elons, and 7 for misdemeanours) rushed out into the midst of it, eagerly gasping, as it were, for a mouthful of fresh vital air. Some of them were cruelly ironed with a sort of fetters called *Bolts* and *Sheers:* under the former of these the prisoner cannot move either foot four inches before the other; but the latter having a joint in the middle, he may walk, though with difficulty, but his feet both night and day are kept 13 inches asunder. I saw here *no proportion of punishment* for the several offences, and, consequently, no suitable distinction of guilt. A runaway apprentice, only 13 years of age, was amongst those let out for air and exercise, and, like the rest, associated with a number of the worst description. No county clothing is yet allowed; and of course I found the prisoners miserably ragged and dirty. No bath supplied, although one might so easily be made from the adjacent river of fine water; no oven to purify

rify infected or offensive apparel. I understand the Earl of Radnor has determined to bring the subject of clothing before the next Quarter Sessions. The debtors' lodgings are very highly charged, at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, for two sleeping in a wretched old bed, destitute of curtains, and four beds in one room. Since the appointment of the present gaoler, the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are stuck up, but not the Statute for preserving the Health of prisoners. It has given me great pleasure to find by the papers, that this abominable gaol is to be presented as a nuisance, and that the County intend soon to erect a new one; for whose government it is devoutly to be hoped that good Rules and Orders will be not only established, but enforced.

Marlborough, *Wiltshire*, County Bridewell and Town Gaol. Gaoler, *William Alexander*. Salary 70*l.*—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Tucker*. Duty, prayers and sermon on Sundays. Salary, 20*l.*—Surgeons, Messrs. *Pingkenny* and *Morris*. Salary 10*l.*—Number of prisoners: 1801, Dec. 13th, 19; 1806, Oct. 16th, 16.—Allowance, one pound 12 ounces of best bread per day each, in loaves sent from the baker's, which I have regularly found to be of full weight.

Remarks.—This prison was first inhabited in 1787. For men here is a court-yard of 72 feet by 36, and two day-rooms on the ground-floor, about 21 feet by 9, with a fire-place in each, two iron-grated windows, and two sleeping-rooms above them of the same size. One of these is used as a Chapel, and has two beds in it; the other has six beds on the floor, with straw in sacking and one blanket each. For women here is also a court-yard 29 feet square; a day-room with fire-place in it 29 feet by 15; and a room above of the same size, divided into two for their sleeping-rooms, each with straw-in-sacking beds and a blanket. In 1791, a new court-yard was added, and six cells were built over arcades in the area of it; each cell 10 feet by 6, and 8 feet 9 inches high, with an iron-grated window of 30 inches by 18, and an aperture in each door 6 inches by 4; ventilated also by a circular grating in the floor, and another in the cieling of each. These cells have iron-frame bedsteads, with straw-in-sacking bed and a blanket each. A small stone trough is in one corner, to which water is laid on by a pipe and cock. Three men prisoners were in these cells at my visit in 1801, very ill of a typhus fever; and, what I could not but think improper, two were in one cell, though several of the other cells had no prisoners at the time. The arcades underneath are very convenient for prisoners in wet weather. A large tub for a bath had been usually placed there; but on my visit in 1806, was judiciously removed to a room over the women's day-room. There is a sewer in every court-yard, and the whole prison is well supplied with water, and kept very clean. The Act for preservation of Health not hung up; Clauses so defaced as to be scarcely legible. *No employment provided*; but when any can be procured, the prisoners who work receive one half of their earnings.

James Neild.

J. Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

Mr. Urban, *Birmingham, Jan.* 4.

HAVING in my possession a Deed immediately connected with the one printed in vol. LXXVII. p. 1119, I have now transcribed it, and copied the autograph (*see Plate I. p.* 193); which, with the seal and its surrounding twist, is in fine preservation.

Yours, &c. William Hamper.

"This Indenture made at Middeh'm the xxvij day of Juyn the sixtene yere of the reigne of King Edward the iiij^th^ betwene the Right high and myghty Prince Richard Duc of Gloucestre Constable and Admirall of England, and Wardeyn of the West-m'ches of England foraneynst Scotland on the one p'tie, and Dame Elizabeth lady Scrop of Massam Wedowe on that other p'tie, Witnessith that the said lady Scrope graunteth by these p'sentes to content and paie to the said Duc or his Assignes yerely in redy money ffrom the deth of Thomas lord Scrope of Massam late her husbande the su~me of CC m^a^rc. st'linges for all suche landes and ten~tes late belonging the said lord Scrope as by the Kinges highnes is and shal be graunted to the said Duc in p'tie of contentacion of his Wages for the keping of the said West-m'ches during the nounage of Thomas now lord Scrope son and heir of the said late lord Scrop if so be that the said Duc contynue still Wardeyn of the said M'ches during the said tyme at the t'mes of Seynt Martyn in Wynter and Whitsonte de by even porcions. Also the said lady Scrope graunteth to the said Duc by these p'sentes all wardes, mariages, relieffes, and advousons belonging to the said landes and ten~tes peasibly w^t^out interupcion of the said lady Scrope during the said tyme. And if it happen the said yerely rent of CC m^a^rc. to be behynde in p't or in hole not paied to the said Duc or his Assignes after any of the t'mes aforerehersed by the space of sex wokes, that then the said lady Scrope graunteth by these p'sentes that the said Duc or his Assignes shall entre in to the said landes and ten~tes, and the issues, p'fites, and revenuez therof p'ceyve and take w^t^out any cont'diccion or impediment of the said lady or her offic's. And if ye said landes and ten~tes amount not to the su~me of CC m^a^rc. by yere, that than the said lady graunteth that the said Duc shall entre in to landes and ten~tes belonging her as amounteth the su~me that so shall lake of the said CC m^a^rc. and the revenuez therof take and p'ceyve w^t^out int'rupcion or gayensayeng of the said lady or her offic's. In Witnesse wherof to these p'sent indentures the p'ties above said ent'chaungeably have setto their seales the day and yere abovesaid."

Mr. Urban, *Feb.* 14.

THIS North-West view of half of the Keep of Helmsley Castle, Yorkshire, (*Plate II.*) was taken in the autumn of 1806. The other half, South-East, has been destroyed. Near the South-West angle of the Keep is a small portion of wall, probably once attached to it. In the distance, to the right, are the remains of an avenue leading from the grand gate of entrance into the castle. I had an idea of going more fully into this description; but, understanding that Mr. J. C. who is occasionally giving the "Present State of York" in your Miscellany, intends to submit his opinion on the subject, and the neighbouring Abbey of Rivaux, I shall decline all farther detail.

Yours, &c. Z.

Selections from Le Clerc's Bibliotheque Universelle et Historique.—No. III.

Korte Verklaringe van den H. Waterdoop, Courte Explication du S. Batême. Avec quelques remarques sur le Batême des petits Enfans. A Utrecht chez R. van Zyll, 1688, *pages* 106.

WE shall lay before our readers a sketch of the method and design of this sensible and judicious treatise.

I. M. Verrin, minister of the Remonstrants at Utrecht, the author of this treatise, after having shewn that the sacrament of Baptism has been derived from the Jews, as well as that of the Eucharist, undertakes to prove that, in this sacred ceremony, it is not the water which is the *sign*, but the *act of washing*; and, that the *thing signified* is, properly speaking, neither the blood of Jesus Christ, nor the Holy Spirit, but *the new birth*. It is well known that the Jewish Proselytes, after their baptism, were considered as persons born anew, and the old ties of consanguinity and affinity were dissolved by that act. Plutarch, in his Roman Questions, relates a custom of the Greeks, who also represented a species of new birth by an ablution. If persons, who had been supposed to die in a foreign land, returned home; or if sick people, whose lives had been despaired of, recovered their health; they were considered as impure, and excluded

excluded from social intercourse, until they had been washed like new-born infants. Our author's position is, that what is chiefly signified by the baptismal ceremony is the new birth; nor must it be supposed, as he observes, that, by this hypothesis, too contracted a view is given of the nature and end of the ordinance, inasmuch as the new birth is a very comprehensive term: with the idea of a new creature, in the scriptural sense of the word, is connected that of a child of God and a member of his church; and, that such a state evidently supposes in us repentance, faith, holiness, a renunciation of the world, self-denial; and on the part of God, the pardon of sin, the gifts and graces of the holy spirit, and life eternal.

II. After these general considerations, M. Verrin comes to Infant Baptism. He shews that the custom which prevailed among the Jews of baptizing infants gives great weight to the passages usually cited from the New Testament, to confute the arguments of the Mennonites; and then he refers to Vossius, who, he thinks, has proved incontestibly, in his book on Baptism, that they baptized infants in the primitive church; after which he proceeds to answer the chief reasons adduced by the modern Anabaptists.

1. They agree that there is no formal command to baptize infants; to which our author replies, that the general command to initiate, by baptism, into the Christian religion, is a sufficient warrant for the practice of infant baptism; because, since the Jews administered this sacrament to the children of proselytes, had our blessed Lord designed that none should be baptized but adults, that is to say, persons capable of rendering an account of their faith, he would have marked it expressly, so as to leave no room for doubt.

2. The Anabaptists tell us, that it does not appear, by any example, that the Apostles ever baptized infants; in answer to which it may be observed, that the command of our Lord was, "Baptize all nations," and that in the Acts of the Apostles, we read of their baptizing whole households; to which it may be added, that the sacred historians do not enter into the minute detail of contemporary customs, which were universally known and practised, nor do they specify the various practices which must necessarily arise from the institution of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Anabaptists might, with equal reason, exclude females from the communion, as infants from baptism, because there is no express command for women to communicate, nor any example on record of the Apostles having admitted women to partake of the Eucharist; and yet we admit them notwithstanding, because it is evident that they are as much interested in the benefits resulting from the death of Christ as the other sex. But our author contends, that we are not so destitute of scripture proofs as the Anabaptists pretend; and he brings forward, with great confidence, the 14th verse of the 7th chap. of 1 Corinth. St. Paul there tells us, that an unbelieving husband is sanctified by a believing wife; and, that the children of Christians are *holy*. It appears, that the Scriptures ascribe this quality to all who had made profession of the Gospel by baptism, and that in whatever sense the terms *holy* and *holiness* are to be taken, they gave a right to what is called the *communion of saints*; now, if the children of Christians have this right, which must be the case, as St. Paul terms them *holy*, surely they ought not to be deprived of a sacrament, which is no more than an outward sign of that holiness.

3. But, say the Mennonites, it is a vain ceremony to baptize infants, who, not having the use of reason, can neither exercise faith nor repentance, nor ratify the promises that are required at baptism. To this objection our author makes the following answers: 1. Circumcision was a seal of the legal covenant, and a solemn engagement to the observance of the law of Moses; and, nevertheless, God had expressly ordained that it should be administered to infants. 2. That the faith which the apostles required, even of adults, before baptism, was no more than a general belief that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, and that God had sent him into the world for our salvation. Accordingly that baptism was no more than an outward mark of the disposition of the mind, to believe in Christ and to receive his doctrine; and it is evident, from various examples of baptism, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, that the period of time which passed between their first instruction and their baptism was too

short

ort to have enabled them to acquire particular knowledge of all the points Christian doctrine.

3. That the repentance which the st disciples of Christ required of those om they introduced into the church baptism, was a general renunciation their errors and vices, and a sincere claration of their readiness to obey e laws of the Gospel. That this disposion was absolutely necessary on their rt, their false opinions and their sinl practices being the obstacles to their corporation into the kingdom of the essiah. But this was no reason why od might not admit into the church ch as had no need of repentance. is merely accidental that this virtue attached to baptism; and if repenince from sin were a necessary adjunct this rite, what shall we say of our essed Lord's baptism? We must, therere, regard this ceremony as the sign a new birth; and we must consier our Lord, in receiving baptism, as pprizing the world, that he was no nger to be viewed in that relation the Jewish, wherein his birth and rcumcision had placed him, but as e head of a new kingdom and of a ew law.

4. The last resource of the Mennoites is, that as all our doings ought conduce to edification; so in this oint of view, adult baptism ought to ave the preference. But, in reply to is, our author observes: 1. That ven admitting this pretext, it is opening an endless source of innovations religion, of schisms, and disputes in e church. 2. The principal end of aptism is not to excite a transient ash of devotion, but to be a sign of ur incorporation into the Christian ociety, and of our right to the benefits hich Jesus Christ hath purchased; therwise we ought to reiterate this acrament as we do all the other helps f piety, prayer, praise, the holy communion, the preaching of the word, c. 3. If the baptism of adults appears more edifying than that of infants, the reason is because it is more are and pompous. If it were common, and if the baptism of infants ere as rare, there is no doubt but e latter would produce the same ffect on the mind as the former. Every thing has its good and bad side. t is well known that great numbers ostponed their baptism in the third, fourth, and fifth centuries, in order to indulge, meanwhile, their sinful propensities, thinking that the baptismal ablution would efface every stain; on the other hand, it is well known that great good has resulted from pious parents reminding their children of their baptismal engagements, and that the recollection of the promises * they publicly made in their name at baptism, has operated as a powerful motive to induce them to train up their offspring in the way wherein they should go.

SCOTO-BRITANNUS.

LETTER XLVIII. ON PRISONS.

Sambrook-court, Feb. 22.

Sunt adhuc curæ hominibus fides et officium†. PLIN. Epist.

I TRANSMIT the following interesting account, inclosed to me, of a well-constructed Prison, with great pleasure, as it must afford similar gratification to every humane reader; and the more so, as the internal management appears to correspond with the excellent plan of the edifice.

J. C. LETTSOM.

WINCHESTER.

Gaoler, *John White*; salary, 200*l.* and two guineas a year for keeping a check account of bread delivered; garnish abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Nicholas Westcomb;* Duty, prayers and sermon on Sunday, and prayers on Wednesday and Friday; Salary, 70l. for Gaol and Bridewell. Surgeon, *Mr. Giles Lyford;* salary 100l. for felons, common-side debtors, and bridewell-prisoners.

Remarks.

To prevent encroachments, the ground purchased recently by the county extends about twelve feet beyond what is occupied by the gaol. The prison is enclosed on three sides by a low fence wall, ten feet high; in the centre of which, on the East, or principal front, is the entrance. This is rendered very conspicuous by a noble and spacious gate, of the Tuscan order, constructed from a design of Vignola, at the Farnese-gardens' gate, or entrance into the Campo Vaccini; and adorned with rustic columns and pilasters; supporting a handsome entablature.

* In the Presbyterian churches, at home and abroad, parents are the sponsors.

† The offices of kindness and fidelity are yet cultivated among men.

On

On a tablet over the entrance is the following inscription:

"This County Gaol was erected in the forty-fifth year of the reign of his Majesty George the Third, and in the year of our Lord,

M,DCCC,V.

"Moneypenny, Architect."

At sixty feet distance on each side of the gate, are rustic piers, connected with the gate by an iron railing. The principal front of this building is 220 feet in length, and is designed to form three advanced structures: the chief entrance is in the middle structure, and on each side are the public entrances to the court-yard, with rooms for the turnkeys adjoining.

The spaces between the advanced structures are ornamented with niches, adorned in a style of chaste simplicity, and the angles are embossed with rustic quoins; the parts of which all are composed, are large, few in number, and of a bold relief, characteristic of the purpose of the building.

Over the niches are moulded square compartments, which give a simple and easy relief to the space, between the crowning of the niches and the beautiful Doric cornice, which is a grand and striking object, imitated from the theatre of Marcellus at Rome, excepting in the dentil band, which here remains uncut, and the soffit of the corona is divested of its ornaments.

The keeper's house, a large and convenient dwelling, is in the centre of the building, and affords from each floor an entire communication, by arcades, all round the prison, without the necessity of passing the courts: these arcades are likewise very convenient for the debtors; giving them an easy and open communication to their apartments, and a great accommodation in walking and enjoying exercise in wet weather.

The ascent to the floors of these arcades, which are paved with flag-stones, is by stone stair-cases, guarded by iron-railing. Over each arcade, on the master-debtors' side, are six sleeping-rooms, 16 feet square, and nearly 11 feet high; and a kitchen, or mess-room, 24 feet by 22, with a large fire-place, dining-table, shelves, and cupboards for provisions. They have also two rooms on the ground-floor, of the same size; one of which is a day-room, and the other for the debtor to see his friends in. The bed-rooms are furnished with a wood lath-bedstead, palliasse, feather-bed, blanket, sheets, and rug, at 2*s.* 6*d.* per week.

The court for common-side debtors is separated from that of the master's side by an iron-railing, and is of equal size, *viz.* 84 feet by 74; they have likewise three floors of arcades, that lead to their sleeping-rooms; three of which are on the ground-floor; three on the first-story, with a mess-room, the same as on the master's side; and three on the attic story, with an infirmary. To these sleeping-rooms, which are the same as those on the master's side, the county allows a straw-in-sacking-bed, a blanket, and coverlet, *gratis.*

In the women-debtors' court, which is 80 feet by 35, and situated on the South side of the prison, are four spacious rooms, of like construction with those of the other debtors: one of these rooms is furnished by the keeper, at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week; and the others have a straw-in-sacking bed, blanket, and coverlet, at the county's expence. Every room has a bath-stove grate, an iron shovel and poker, and a coal-box, which holds two bushels: the recess on each side the chimney has a shelf 18 inches wide, for placing their provisions, &c. All the debtors' rooms are boarded, with each a sash window, 5 feet 6 by 3 feet 6, and a grated unglazed aperture over the door, 3 feet by 1 foot 6. This court has no arcades, but a door out of it communicates with the chapel. The reservoir is filled by an hydraulic pump, from a well of fine water adjoining; and being judiciously placed in the centre of the men-debtors' courts, is both convenient and ornamental, forming an elegant arcade beneath the cistern. Within these arcades are placed two large stone-troughs, with each a pipe and cock, so that the debtors may enjoy all the use of a constant supply of water, under cover, from the reservoir. Pipes are also laid on to the keeper's house, and to the court for women-debtors.

The court for female felons is situated on the North side of the new buildings, and of 105 feet by 45. On the ground floor is a spacious day-room, 24 feet by 22, and nearly 11 feet high, with iron grated and glazed windows; paved with flag-stone; well supplied with water by a pipe and cock from the reservoir, placed in the men-debtors' court; and is fitted up with fire-place, benches,

benches, table, and shelves 18 inches wide, in each chimney recess, for provisions; and a water-trough.

Within the court are three floors of arcades, containing three cells, or night-rooms on each floor, of 15 feet by 7, and nearly 11 feet high. The ascent to the upper rooms is by a stone stair-case, guarded by iron rails. These cells are well aired by grated apertures over the doors of 3 feet by 1 foot 6, without glass; and there is another aperture through each partition-wall to the stair-case, whereby a free circulation of air is obtained; and which, with the spaciousness of the rooms, cannot fail, with attention, to make this part of the prison always healthy. There is also on the upper floor, an infirmary-room, 24 feet by 22, with two sash-windows, and proper conveniences for sick persons.

The male felons' apartments in this prison, as they stood in 1807, were erected upon a piece of ground that was purchased in the year 1788, adjoining to the old building. A lobby, or passage, 28 feet long and 6 feet wide, leads to the centre building; and on each side are two courts, of about 60 feet by 35. On the ground floor in each court-yard is a day room, 13 feet square, with fire-place, table, benches, shelves, a water cock, and stone washing trough; also four sleeping cells, each nine feet by six, lined with oak plank, with iron-grated unglazed windows, 18 feet by 14, and inside shutters, in each of which there is a pane of knob-bed-glass.

In the centre of the building, on the ground floor, is the turnkey's lodge, and behind that his sitting room. On the first story are 24 sleeping cells, and a room for each of the turnkeys, which commands a view of the four court yards. On the second, or attic story, are 16 sleeping cells, and 4 infirmary rooms.

The total number of men felons' cells therefore is 56, with four day rooms, and four infirmary rooms. Each cell is 9 feet by 6, and fitted up with wheat straw in canvas bed, 2 blankets, a rug, and pewter chamber utensils: and all, except those on the ground-floor, open into lobbies 4 feet wide.

The various sewers are placed at the end of the several wings of the prison, on the outside of the stair-cases, the vaults of which are 60 feet deep. There are also pens adjoining the sewers, for ashes, &c., forming together little buildings, equally useful and ornamental.

The court yards here are so extensive and open, that the paving of them entirely with flag-stones is thought unnecessary; yet, in order that prisoners may enjoy the free use of them, spacious foot-paths of stone are laid out in various directions, and the intermediate parts are covered with fine gravel.

It is to be regretted, that when this addition was made to the prison, a new Chapel also was not built. The present old one is 28 feet by 25, and 12 feet high; therefore low and inconvenient. And although the sexes are separated in the area of the building, they sit on benches or forms, very near to, and in full view of each other.

Debtors have the *option of attending divine service*; but, if they neglect, are locked up in their rooms till it is over. The Rev. *John Lee*, a Romish Priest, gratuitously attends those prisoners who are of the same persuasion.

Underneath the chapel is a large store-room in which are deposited the fuel, &c., granted for the use of the prisoners.

The day-rooms have coals allowed, with kettles, and other utensils for cooking. Common-side debtors have about forty bushels of coals for winter consumption.

No employment has hitherto been provided by the County: but such Prisoners as are of handicraft trades are permitted to procure work from without, and have the whole of their earnings.

Saint Cross's Hospital *Bread*, called the *Dole*, is a small Loaf, given to each of the Prisoners six times a year: viz. Easter-eve, Whitsun-eve, May the 3d, August the 10th, October the 31st, and Christmas-eve: upon sending thither the number of Prisoners in custody on each of those days, the same number of Loaves is put by, and sent for the day following.

The Prisoners are obliged to wash their hands and face every morning: they have clean linen once a week, and are shaved twice weekly.

Mops, brooms, brushes, soap, and all other requisites for prison cleanliness, are provided for the whole gaol by the considerate Magistrates: and every prisoner must sweep his room, and wash it daily in Summer, and weekly in Winter.

Here

Here is no gaol uniform provided; but if a prisoner be ragged or filthy in apparel, he is furnished with suitable clothing. A large tub is ready for a bath.

☞ All prisoners are prudently discharged in a morning, and have money given them, according to the distance from their respective homes.

The worthy keeper is humane, intelligent, and attentive; and the prison remarkably clean.

Through the exertions of that active and excellent magistrate, Sir Henry St. John Mildmay*, Bart., M.P. for the county, a fund has been established here, for the relief of those poor debtors who are unable to sue for their six-pences, supersedeas, &c., and likewise to give some temporary assistance, to enable them to go to their respective homes. If similar institutions were established throughout England and Wales, it would be productive of infinite good: in Wales particularly so, where many poor debtors are confined for three or four pounds, and the expence of suing for their aliment is greater than the original debt.

Number of debtors 23d of September, 1807, Twenty-three, and felons, &c. Eighteen.

My dear Friend,

I shall make no apology for trespassing on your patience by this long narrative, because I know it must be more than counterbalanced by the pleasure you will receive in the perusal. Adieu. Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

Doctor Lettsom, London.

Mr. URBAN, *Feb.* 13.

I HAD just read the observations of your ingenious correspondent on the *Thule* and *Taprobane* of the Antients, when I took up the Description of Ceylon by the Reverend James Cordiner, who, in his first chapter, enters into the discussion whether *Taprobane* was the name given to Ceylon, or Sumatra. He is inclined, I think, to the former opinion; and I would refer T. R. to his various reasons for so doing, which, I confess, seem to carry conviction. The circumstance indeed of the island of Ceylon still bearing the name of *Lamca* in the Cingalese language, which it has borne from the remotest antiquity, and of *Tapobou* in the Sanscrit, both words having nearly the same signification, and implying the holy land (or land of prayer); and the great similarity of this latter word to *Taprobane*, must certainly induce us to persist in the generally received hypothesis.

After all, may it not be possible that, in the infancy of the sciences of Navigation and Geography, both these islands of Ceylon and Sumatra may have been described under the same name? The intercourse with the continent of Asia was then by no means frequent; one set of navigators might have discovered Ceylon; another, Sumatra; and when their accounts were compared, they might have been inclined, from the similarity which would have appeared between them (for the general face of both islands, in point of beauty of landscape, is described by travellers as much the same), to think that they had all visited the same place. Both the islands in question were certainly known to the Antients: for, however much we may suppose the land of Ceylon formerly to have extended, we can scarcely fancy that it ever existed with the line passing through it as described by Ptolemy. Ptolemy therefore may have referred to Sumatra, and Strabo to Ceylon; how should it happen otherwise that we have the two islands, and but one name? for, though by M. D'Anville, in his map "Orbis Veteribus Notus," Sumatra is called Gabadii Insula, I am not able to discover any authority to support him. Might not Gabadii Insula mean Java? E. W.

Mr. URBAN, *Feb.* 12.

I AM somewhat surprised to find two of your correspondents, p. 998 of your last volume, enter into a comparison between that pretty little trifle the *Butterfly's Ball*, and an imitation of it, styled the *Peacock at Home*; and still more at their endeavours to deduce a preference in favour of the latter: when, upon a fair statement of circumstances, we ought to forget the *Butterfly's Ball*, in order to see the *Peacock at Home* to advantage.

I am, Mr. Urban, an old fellow like yourself: it is therefore a vain attempt to influence my judgment, by telling me that the *Peacock at Home* was written

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* My worthy friend, and able coadjutor in an examination and report of the state of convicts in Portsmouth and Langston Harbours, drawn up 16 March, 1802; and to whom it will give great pleasure to be informed, that since the new system has been adopted, the convicts are, in every respect more healthy and comfortable.

en by a lady. If a lady wishes to avail herself of her sex, let her go to tea parties, and shew herself in a drawing room; at balls, and other meetings, where compliments are currency, they will, and ought to be allowed to her; but circumstances are widely different, when she extends her pretensions to promotion in the republick of letters. The members of this republick regulate their concerns by stern maxims; and though a work of merit from a female pen may perhaps be over-rated, as catching the judges by surprise, yet no bad performance will gain currency on that account; and mere toleration on any account is but cold amends for the labour of composition; now for the application.

Two writers, whom, like John Doe and Richard Roe, so well known in the courts of Westminster hall, I shall designate by D. and R. attempt the same species of composition: R. wrote a pretty little poem, to amuse his children; interesting by the simplicity of its construction, and well adapted to infantine apprehensions: it met, of course, with general applause. D. upon this, snatches hold of the idea, and writes an imitation, evidently with the purpose of surpassing the original. To purloin and work upon another man's ideas, in order to rival him, is generally deemed a servile kind of proceeding; and argues something invidious in the motive: we therefore find it seldom succeeds, as in truth and justice it ought not. To examine the instance before us:

R. framed a light entertaining apologue, in which he introduced characters familiar to children, because daily before their observation. The imitator, conscious of the merit of the piece, but not perceiving that it depended on the simplicity of the materials, endeavoured to improve the plan by embellishment. Hence, recourse was had to books of ornithology, to select a more respectable company; and hence, a strange congregation is formed of birds, many of them not only strangers to us, but to each other. We find the cassowary, flamingo, taylor-bird (*cuculus indicator*), ptarmigan, eider-duck, grouse, chough, panting, trumpeter, widow (or whydah) bird, heron, &c. Now, though this goodly assemblage may show the extent of the writer's reading; so remote are they from the knowledge of children, that not many of their parents will be qualified to satisfy inquiries concerning them: and even if they could, such tedious explanations would not render the story engaging to juvenile minds. Here, therefore, the strained attempt at superiority has betrayed the writer into absurdity. The utmost praise then that the Peacock at Home is entitled to, is that of being a tolerable poem, constructed on a second-hand model; and its being announced as the work of a Lady can serve no better purpose than perhaps to suggest a wish that she had been otherwise employed.

Yours, &c. OUNDLEIENSIS.

Mr. URBAN, *Lichfield, Feb. 2.*

ABOUT six years ago, a young buzzard (*Falco Buteo* of Linnæus) was caught in the park of Lord Spencer Chichester at Fisherwick, near this place, and brought to the house of Mr. Jarvis, a farmer of Wittington. After it was completely domesticated, it was suffered to go at large about the premises, and a wood box was made, and put in the garden, to which it used to retire. The following year it made a nest, and laid two eggs in this box, and sat them with great patience, but they were unprolific. The year following it made another nest in the box, and the farmer taking the hint, put in four hen's eggs, which the buzzard hatched, and has regularly every year since hatched and reared three or four chicken. After the young are excluded, it seems to have all the cares of a mother, and feeds and defends them with the greatest vigilance; on these occasions, it will scarce admit any one into the garden, and fowls, dogs, and other animals, are attacked without mercy. If meat is thrown down, it will seize it, and tear it into small pieces for the chicken, which attend his screaming noise with as much avidity, and with the same notes of complacency, as they would the clacking of their natural mother. It also hovers them the same as a hen.

At the same house there is another very singular circumstance. A duck bred between the Muscovy and common duck (probably a Hybred bird) flies a considerable height every evening, and perches among the fowls, and seems to court their society and affect their manners all day; frequently he will perch on a gate or rail, with the fowls, and not unfrequently has been known to fly up in a tree and there perch with them.

A STAFFORDSHIRE FARMER.

Mr. Urban, *Birmingham, March* 3.

THOUGH much, perhaps enough, has been already said in your Magazine respecting the monogram of I.H.S. yet I cannot refrain from transcribing a few lines from an antient MS poem on the festivals of the church, (which by the kindness of a friend is now in my possession,) as the extract will, I conceive, elucidate this subject of antiquarian controversy far better than any conjectures of

Yours, William Hamper.

And furthermore ye story doth devyse,
The same day right forthwith anone,
In the temple as they him circumcyse,
He named was *Jesus* of echone,
The which name, long or y^t^ agone,
Was of ye Angell tolde and sayde afore
To his moder, ere y^t^, he was bore.

But to rehcrce ye grete worthynesse
Of this name wch may not be descryved,
My wittes ben all so dulle with rudenesse,
And in the chayne of ignoraunce so gyved,
That I alas of conning am deprived,
Through lacke of witte in any maner wyse,
To underfonge so passing hygh empryse.

Then follow thirty-two stanzas, describing the efficacy of this name "that hertes most desyer," which introduce this petition:

And Christ Jesu, we prayen unto thee,
Let thy name, whether we ryde or gone,
In eche peryll & eche adversyte,
Be our defense ayein our mortall fone,
To make them stonde styll as any stone,
And all y^t^ casten us falsely to warrey,
Make their malyce mekely to obeye

Unto thy name, and make them stonde abacke,
Ere they have power to werche their cruell spight,
And wicked spyrites so horyble & blacke
Let *thy holy name* drive them out of sight,
And in our forehede when we J.H.S. impresse,
Make us of grace their malice to oppresse.

Mr. Urban, *Feb.* 11.

HAVING read with extraordinary pleasure the essays on Gothic Architecture published by Mr. Taylor, I was induced to consider the different opinions of the learned on the name or names proper to be substituted for the term *Gothic*, as applied to particular kinds of architecture, which being universally acknowledged inappropriate, renders such a measure necessary.

The best names are such as convey the clearest idea of the objects named; this is most likely to be obtained either by a simple indication of their origin or composition.

Chemistry has afforded a striking example of advantages derived from this principle, the new nomenclature of which was adopted amidst wavering opinions, by an union of those who were the most celebrated in the science, and their exertions have had the happiest effect.

Analogy defines that similar steps are requisite in the study of Antiquities; till such a measure takes place, I hope it may not be considered presuming in any individual offering his opinion.

Simply considered, independent of certain ornaments or additional appendages, there have been but two kinds of Architecture prevalent in England; the first used by our Saxon ancestors, composed of circular arches, and massy round columns, being a distant imitation of the Tuscan; as to that of the Normans, all agree, it was no other than the Saxon on an enlarged scale; it is therefore still the same, for it is not the size of the building, but the proportions and forms that constitute the orders; if then we call this the Saxon style from its origin, where can be the objection?

The second consists of pointed arches, and clustered columns; and in many buildings, like Salisbury Cathedral, terminating in a pyramid.

Although from the most reasonable supposition gradually and progressively arising from the former; it is nevertheless a distinct, entire, and original order; this obtained by slow degrees, not only in England, but in various parts of Europe, till in the thirteenth century we find it complete. In this the origin is not so apparent, and doubts still remain with some as to its extraction; consequently for its name we must refer to its composition, whence Dr. Milner has judiciously called it the Pointed style.

This is the only architecture that has any just claim to originality of invention since the Grecian: why therefore should it not be named, with the Doric and Ionic, the Pyramidic order?

I hope you will excuse these observations from one who can but own himself a novice in the subject of Antiquities; but as it is his intention to make further remarks, he will be happy to attend to the animadversions of those who may be more competent.

Your's, &c.

Frear St. Reading. Anthony Focc.

Mr. Urban, *March* 26.

FROM a volume of Drawings, containing a considerable number of sketches in Warwickshire, I send you a North-West View of the old College at Stratford-upon-Avon; which Dugdale describes as "a house of square stone for the habitation of five priests, adjoining to the church-yard, built by Ralph de Stratford, first a canon of St. Paul's, and afterwards Bishop of London; whose good affections to this town (being his birth-place) stirred him up to that pious work, of which he began the structure 26 Edward III. 1353,) with ten carpenters, ten masons, and their servants;" and to which foundation were afterwards added, by Dr. Ralph Collingwode, Dean of Lichfield, "four children choristers, to be daily assistant in the celebration of divine service in that Church; who should always come by two and two together into the Quire to Matins and Vespers on such days as the same were to be sung there, according to the *Ordinale Sarum*; and at their entrance into the Church, bowing their knees before the Crucifix, each of them say a *Pater-noster* and an *Ave*. And for their better regulation did he order and appoint, that they should sit quietly in the Quire, saying the *Matins* and *Vespers* of our Lady distinctly, and afterwards be observant to the offices of the Quire; that they should not be sent upon any occasion whatsoever into the Town; that at dinner and supper times they should constantly be in the College to wait at the table: and to read upon the Bible, or some other authentique book; that they should not come into the Buttry to draw beer for themselves or any body else: that after dinner they should go to the Singing-school; and that their Schoolmaster should be one of the Priests or Clerks appointed by the discretion of the *Warden*, being a man able to instruct them in singing to the Organ: as also that they should have one Bedchamber in the Church, whereunto they were to repair in Winter-time at eight of the clock, and in Summer at nine in which lodging to be two beds, wherein they were to sleep by couples, and that before they did put off their clothes they should all say the prayer of *De profundis* with a loud voice, with the prayers and orisons of the faithfull; and afterwards say thus, *God have mercy of the Soule of* Rauf Colyngwode *our Founder, and Master*, Thomas Balshall, *a speciall Benefactor to the same* *."

As a companion to the other Drawing, I send also a View of the *Brook House*, in which it is generally admitted that Shakspeare was really born.

Yours, &c. P. Q.

LETTER XLIX. ON PRISONS.

——— Momento mare vertitur, eodem die ubi luserunt, navigia sorbentur†.

Mr. Urban, *Sambrook Court*, *March* 18.

IN perusing the following relation of the Hereford County Gaol, the mind dwells with satisfaction on the amelioration of misery afforded by the judicious management of this Prison; but the conclusion of the history presents a sudden and painful transition. To speak in allusion to the quotation from the Roman Poet,—the horizon becomes clouded, and the fairest hopes from labour, within the precincts of the Prison, are suddenly wrecked, and disappear in the storm.

As this subject is pointedly adverted to in the sequel, it requires no farther elucidation from J. C. Lettsom.

Hereford County Gaol and House of Correction.—Gaoler, *John Preece*. Salary, £182.—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Underwood*. Duty, Prayers and Sermon every Sunday, Christmas-day, and Good-Friday; and Prayers every Wednesday and Friday. Salary £50. twenty pounds of which is a legacy from William Bridges, Esq. of Tiberton in this County.—Surgeon, Mr. *Cam*. Salary, £42. for Debtors, Felons, &c. —Number of Debtors, Nov. 28, 1806, eight, and Felons, &c. thirty-four.—Allowance, Debtors, one pound of bread *per* day each. (See the Remarks.) Felons and Bridewell Prisoners the same, and some allowance from the Charity Box. Transports have the King's Allowance of 2*s*. 6*d*. per week to subsist on.

Remarks. This Prison, which is also the House of Correction, or Bridewell, is built upon the site of the Old Priory. The Turnkey's lodge in front has, on each side, two Reception-cells for the confinement of Prisoners, till examined by

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* Warwickshire, ed. Thomas, II. 692.

† In a moment the sea is convulsed, and on the same day vessels are swallowed up, where they lately sported on the Ocean.

by the Surgeon, previous to their being admitted into the interior of the Gaol; and two small Court-yards for the Prisoners. Here are a warm and cold Bath, with an Oven to fumigate and purify the Prisoner's clothes; and the flat roof above is the place of execution. The Court is flagged, and in it is the Engine-house, and a Well, by which the whole Prison is supplied with excellent water: A house for the Manufacturer or Task-master, and a very neat shop for the articles manufactured in the Prison, *viz.* shoes, slippers, gaiters, stockings, gloves, garters, flaxen-yarn, and nets of all sorts; the sale of which is promoted by advertisement at the County expence. At the upper end of this Court is the Gaoler's house, on the ground-floor of which is the Magistrates Committee-room: a passage leads to the great Hall or Inspection-room, which is about 18 yards diameter, and nearly circular, with windows opening into every court, and has a complete command of the whole Prison.

The Rules and Orders, which are painted on a board, and hung up in every Lobby, among other things recite: "Any Person wishing to work may have raw materials of the Keeper, who will dispose of the work on the best terms he can; and, after deducting the prime cost of the raw materials, pay the remainder to the Prisoner who performed the work; except one fourth thereof, which is to be reserved for the County. Any person to whom work is refused, or whose money is kept back, or has suffered any imposition from the Keeper, or his Servants, is particularly enjoined to make complaint thereof to the Magistrate at his next Visitation."

Men and Women Debtors have each a separate and spacious Court-yard and Day-room. The Men have twenty Sleeping-rooms, ten below and ten above, 12 feet by 9, furnished with beds and bedding by the Gaoler at 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week each. The Women have eight rooms of equal size, four below and four above, all Free Wards; and if a Debtor is too poor to provide his own bed, the County humanely furnishes him with an iron bedstead, sacking bottom, a straw bed, two blankets, and a coverlet, *gratis.* There is a fire-place in every Room, but *no Fuel allowed.*

Of the six ample Court-yards in this Prison, those for Men Debtors and Men Bridewell Prisoners are of 114 feet by 78; those for Women Debtors and Women Bridewell Prisoners, 108 feet by 102; and those for Male and Female Felons are 75 feet square. Each Court has a sewer in it, and is well supplied with water. In several of the Courts vegetables are raised for the use of the Prisoners, in addition to the allowance above-stated.

Here are four excellent Infirmary-rooms, and the sick are as well attended to as in an hospital. The humane Surgeon having a discretional power to order all things necessary, every page of the Prison-book bears witness to his great attention. The Chapel is a very neat building, and the Prisoners are seated in their different classes: all are required to attend Divine Service, which is most devoutly and impressively performed by the exemplary Chaplain; by whose serious discourse I was much edified at my several visits, and with pleasure remarked the number of communicants when the Sacrament was administered. Every Ward of this Prison has a Lobby or Passage, four feet wide, with an iron grate that opens into the Great Hall, or Inspection-room. Men and Women Felons have, each class, a Day-room, and twelve Sleeping-cells, six below of 8 feet by 7, six above of the same size; and fitted up with wooden bedsteads, straw bed, two blankets and a coverlet. They have also County clothing on admission, and their own apparel returned to them when discharged. The Male and Female Bridewell Prisoners have, each class, nine Work-rooms below, and as many Sleeping-rooms above; all 9 feet 3 inches by 9 feet, and fitted up with beds and bedding, the same as the Felons.

William Bridges, Esq. bequeathed eight pounds a-year to poor Prisoners; and on St. Thomas's Day one shilling is given to each Debtor, and one shilling to each Felon, by a legacy of Sir *Thomas White.*

No Table of Bequests kept in the Prison.

The Act for Preservation of the Health of Prisoners, and Prohibitory Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up.

The Rules and Orders for the government of this well-arranged Prison are printed in large type, and displayed to general view.

Here-

Hereford City Gaol and Bridewell.—Gaoler, *John Thomas*. Salary, £.13. Fees, 6*s*. 8*d*. Garnish, not abolished, 2*s*. 6*d*.—Chaplain, none.—Surgeon, none. When wanted, he is sent by the Mayor.—Prisoners, August 20, 1803, four, and a Lunatick.—Allowance, formerly none: now fourpence a-day in bread, to Prisoners of every description.

Remarks. This Gaol is the Bye-street Gate, in which one room is called the Bridewell. It has a small Court with a sewer in it, and the Whipping-post. For Common-side Debtors there is a *Free Ward*, to which the Corporation allow straw: they have a little Court, about 15 feet square, with a sewer; and it is well supplied with water. Master's-side Debtors have two Rooms in the Keeper's house, for which they pay 2*s*. 6*d*. *per* week each single bed; or if two sleep together, 1*s*. 6*d*. each. For Felons here are two small Court-yards, about 15 feet square, with a sewer in each, and well supplied with water.

In one of the Courts, down eleven steps, are two horrid dungeons totally dark. The Keeper, indeed, says they are never used; yet, though they did not appear to have had any inhabitant in them for many years, I should have been better pleased at seeing them pricked up. The felons have also three close offensive Sleeping-rooms, which I found scattered over with loose straw on the floor, dirty, and worn to dust. Here is likewise one room, justly denominated "The Black Hole," which, if not impenetrably dark, has no light nor ventilation, save what is faintly admitted through a small aperture in the door: it is supplied with a barrack bedstead and loose straw; and in this wretched sink-hole was a poor deranged man, in the most filthy and pitiable state that it is possible to conceive.

Upon my telling the Keeper, that in case he did not immediately remove straw and filth out of the several courts, I would apply to the Magistrates, I had the pleasure of finding the old straw burnt, and the Court-yards cleaned the next day. Debtors committed to this Gaol are by Process issuing out of the Mayor's Court; and they become entitled to their sixpences in about six weeks: but *very few are able to pay the expence of suing for them, which frequently exceeds the original debt.* One shilling is given to each Prisoner at every Quarter Session by the Chairman. Neither the Act for Preserving Health, nor the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors hung up. The whole Prison is very dirty. The Commitments to it in 1802 were *One hundred and thirty-six.*

My Dear Friend,

The pleasure you receive in reading my Remarks on Hereford County Gaol will be sadly diminished, when I inform you, that I have just received a letter from the Keeper, dated Feb. 14, 1808, by which I learn, with equal surprise and concern, that the working system is in a great measure discontinued. "Neither the absolute value of the work produced, nor the proportion it bears to the maintenance of the workmen, is the principal object: the point is, that he should be *employed*; whether more or less usefully depends on the ingenuity of those who set him to *work*; the profit is *a local concern*, but it imports the Public that he should work, let the value be ever so trifling. There are, however, so many little articles of constant use, and made of materials that are found every where, that every human being between infancy and decrepitude may be employed with some small advantage. We are told, that in the Poor-house at *Wyndham*, in the course of the year 1790, an infirm old man, and a woman with a child at her breast, earned half their subsistence by shaping sticks into handles for children's whips, which were sold to the toy-makers. If it were an indispensable rule that every Prisoner *must work*, those who are to bear the expence would soon find means to make that turn to account." See Rules for the County of Salop, 1797, p. 44.

Yours truly, James Neild.

To Doctor Lettsom, London.

Illustrations of Horace.
Book I. Epistle XVII.
To Scæva.

EXCEPTING what little may be gathered from this Epistle itself, not the slightest particle is known concerning the person to whom it is written. There is room, with some probability, to conjecture that he was of no mean extraction (perhaps a son of the brave Cassius Scæva, of whom such

such honourable mention is made by Julius Cæsar in the 53d chapter of the iiid book of his History of the civil war*). That he had hitherto, though without any extraordinary effect, attached himself to some great man at Rome; that the little hope he had of improving his fortune in this method, had made him disspirited, and irresolute whether to proceed or retreat; and that Horace, under these circumstances, wrote to him for his encouragement — by representing to him in a different point of view, what he in his melancholy mood had perhaps called vassalage — and at the same time giving him to understand, wherein he was probably mistaken, and of what he should be most solicitous in his intercourse with the great. The well-known controversy between Aristippus and Diogenes furnishes him with a subject which he most ingeniously employs to his purpose; by representing in Aristippus the pattern and ideal image of a philosopher at court, a man who knew how to live with kings, without surrendering either his liberty or his character; and by endeavouring to convince his friend, that it requires more virtue, that is, more understanding, prudence, courage, firmness, self-controul, and perseverance, to play well the part of an Aristippus than that of a Diogenes.

Ferentinum ire jubebo.] The Geographers lay down for us three places which bore the name of Ferentinum, the most noted whereof stood on the *Via Latina*, seven Italian miles above Anagni, and still bears that name. Probably Scæva might have a small estate there. The advice, however, which Horace gives him to retire thither if he values his ease and convenience, appears not to have been exactly the course which, in his opinion, was most agreeable to Scæva. He therefore but just slightly touches upon it, that he may the longer insist upon what he particularly wants to tell him. It is likely that he knew his friend Scæva well enough for perceiving that, with a proper resolution, and with the assistance of an experienced monitor, he might prove a very passable courtier, but that in any case he would turn out but a miserable philosopher in solitude.

Nollet Aristippus.] So says Diogenes the cynic. The story is of universal notoriety.

Fastidiret olus, qui me notat.] Namely, he would not condescend, for the sake of the paltry advantage of eating better and making a finer figure in the world, to what in the cynical language, the *scurra*, or in the courtly style, the friend of a king — like Dionysius — must submit. This was what Diogenes upbraided the spruce, pampered, purple-clad Aristippus with. — I suspect that Scæva, in a fit of the spleen — in one of those moments when every man thinks himself a philosopher — had let fall something about the great, and the wretchedness of their service, to Horace, in somewhat of this tone: Of what use is all this to me? Cannot I live upon roots and cabbages as well as Diogenes? And if so, what need have I to suffer myself to be teized and tormented by a great man? — Well! returns his friend, but if thou knewest how to deal with the great, thou wouldst be less plagued and teized, and have no need to live upon cabbage. I grant, it is an art to live contentedly upon cabbage: but to live with kings is likewise an art. Each has its inconveniences; each its advantages. The question is only: in which of them wouldst thou best find thy account?

Officium.] Aristippus treated his office of diverting the king's melancholy, as a court service. Such numbers are richly gifted with the contrary virtue, that it is by no means surprising, if kings set a value on services in the Aristippic taste, of which their treasurers are not always so well convinced as themselves. However, Dionysius dealt with his buffoon as the Sieur de Montaigne did with his cat. *Scurror ipse mihi*, said Aristippus: the king imagines he is making a fool of me; but, begging his pardon — if I divert him, it is simply because he enables me to pass my time merrily; and as soon as ever I cease to find the sport

* He was one of the four Centurions in Cæsar's army, who defended a fortified post at Dyrrachium with an obstinacy almost without example; although the attack was so violent, that the shield of this Scæva was found perforated with 230 javelin-shots. Cæsar, in reward of the bravery he displayed on that decisive day, presented him with a sum equal to 1500 *l.* and promoted him from the eighth to the first rank in his cohort.

LETTER L. ON PRISONS.

Here let the Charities unite,
And human feelings weep delight! BROOKE.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook-court, May* 21.

THE pleasing information conveyed in the conclusion of the following history of the High Gaol of Exeter, will afford true gratification to the humane reader of these essays, and doubtless to the persevering Friend of the prisoner; whose mind is occasionally solaced in contemplating the amelioration of their condition, in no inconsiderable degree effected by his undeviating attention to the state and management of prisons, and well corresponding with the apostolic admonition, "*Bonum autem facientes non deficiamus.*"

J. C. LETTSOM.

EXETER, the HIGH GAOL, for FELONS. Gaoler, *James Brown*; salary, 200l. together with two fields for his use, of about six acres of ground; fees, and garnish, abolished.—Chaplain, Rev. *William Bowness*; duty, at the *Gaol*, prayers every morning, on Sunday prayers and sermon; at the *Bridewell*, prayers and sermon on Sunday, and prayers on Thursday; salary, for the *Gaol* 90l. with 10l. each Quarter Session; for the *Bridewell* 36l. and holds no other cure.—Surgeon, Mr. *Walker*; salary, 42l. for the *High Gaol* and *Bridewell*. Number of prisoners September 26, 1806, 31.—Allowance, twenty-two ounces of bread *per* day, in loaves from the baker. I think it but justice to mention, that I found many of the loaves weighing 23 ounces. Convicts under sentence of transportation (see *Remarks*) have not the County bread; but the King's allowance of 2s. 6d. *per* week for their support.

REMARKS. This Gaol is very conspicuously placed, in a fine situation, elevated and healthy. The boundary wall incloses nearly two acres of land, and being sixteen feet from the several court-yards, the Keeper has thrown round within that limit a convenient garden.

The Turnkey's lodge, which is in front, has, on the right hand, his sitting-room; and on the left hand are two baths and a copper. Above stairs is his sleeping-room, and four *reception-rooms* for prisoners either unhealthy, uncleanly, or who are sent in by night; and likewise a room in which some prisoners' cloaths are deposited, and the Gaol uniform put on them instead.

Above this building is a leaded flat roof, upon which criminals are executed.

The Gaoler's house is in the centre of the building, and the approach to it lies through a small garden.

On the ground floor are *thirty sleeping-cells*, which open into a lobby or passage five feet wide; and also twelve other cells of the like description, that open into two court-yards, six cells in each; these last, however, being damp in winter, are prudentially never used, unless the gaol is crowded.

There are two day-rooms for men on the ground floor, nearly octagon, and about 22 feet diameter, with glazed windows, and two fire-places in each, to which the County liberally allows coals, seats, tables, and shelves for putting by provisions.

To this very exemplary prison, there are no less than *fourteen court-yards*. Two of them, 28 yards by 20, are for men felons, both before trial and after conviction, inclosed by a brick wall, and each having in it a pump, and arcades for accommodation in wet weather.

One court for the women felons has open wood palisades, surrounding a grass-plat. Several of the other court-

court-yards, since their first laying out, have been temporarily converted into gardens, there being at the time of their construction no prisoners of the class for which they were originally intended.

The *first story* has *forty-eight sleeping-cells*, which open into passages five feet wide, leading (24 on each side) to the Chapel; and also two day-rooms, similar to those below.

The *second story* has *fifty cells*, which, 25 on each side, are separated by a passage of the same width as the former, and opening toward the Chapel in the same manner as those below. Two day-rooms also, of similar construction with the foregoing.

The *third story* has fifty sleeping-cells and two day-rooms, like those on the second story.

The Chapel, a very neat structure, is properly partitioned off to separate the different classes of prisoners; and in the gallery there are six cells made occasionally to open — these are for prisoners under sentence of death, and generally kept in utter darkness, but during divine service the inner door (a wooden one) is thrown open, so that they can hear very well; they are each eight feet six inches by seven feet, and ten feet high; and the Turnkey's sleeping-room is close adjoining.

The common sleeping-cells are eight feet six by six feet six, and ten feet high, with arched roofs and double doors, the outward iron-grated, the inner of wood, with glazed windows, well ventilated, and fitted up, some with wooden crib bedsteads, others with those of cast-iron, straw in sacking beds, two blankets, a coarse sheet, pillow, and rug.

On the attic story of the Keeper's house, are two neat rooms, with conveniences for the sick; and communicating to the Chapel by a Lobby.

Every prisoner is required to attend divine service, unless prevented by sickness; and only one prisoner was absent when I was there.

Religious books are distributed amongst them at the Chaplain's discretion. Forty Bibles, with the Common-prayer and Psalms, were sent by an unknown Lady, just before my visit in September 1806.

Those criminal prisoners who wish to be better accommodated than the rest can afford to be, have feather-beds and bedding furnished by the Keeper, at 2s. 6d. *per* week.

The Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up, and excellent Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Gaol, signed by the Justices in Session, and confirmed by the Judges of Assize, are printed and published.

Previous to the appointment of the present Keeper, a singular custom had prevailed, for a party of the prisoners doubly ironed, to be escorted, and to beg charity every Christmas throughout the city. The custom now is very judiciously discontinued.

The only permanent donation to this Gaol of which I could get information, is the sum of ten shillings *per annum* from the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. Mr. Bowness, the respectable Chaplain, every year since his appointment to the office, has given one guinea to the poorest of the prisoners at Christmas. Mr. Cornish also, the Surveyor, gives five shillings at the same season: the worthy Gaoler himself adds a Christmas dinner and a pint of beer or cider, to every prisoner whose good conduct has entitled him, or her, to so exemplary a kindness: at Christmas 1806 Lady Rolle sent two guineas, and nine bags of potatoes, for the most necessitous; and there are casual donations likewise, contributed by ladies and gentlemen who occasionally visit the Gaol.

Here, as in many other County Gaols, *Lunaticks are received:* of this description were four, when I was here; who failed not very much to disturb the quiet of the prison, as well as to endanger the safety both of the Gaoler and his Turnkeys. It appears a very desirable object, that persons so peculiarly pitiable should be admitted to the blessings of an *Hospital*; where, by medical aid, tranquillity, and judicious treatment, they might be restored to usefulness in life, or rendered at least more comfortable, both to themselves and others, than the circumstances of a *Gaol* can possibly afford.

This prison is very frequently visited by the considerate Magistrates of the County; and every comfort supplied its inhabitants, consistent with the privation of liberty.

Although the situation of the building is excellent, the original plan of it is extremely defective. The Gaoler's house is so placed, as to command

nand a view of but a small part of the whole concern. The twelve cells which open into the court-yards are unfit for any human being to sleep in. It would be a great improvement if most of those cells built on the ground-floor were converted into workshops; the local situation of this city affording an inexhaustible supply of resources, in the picking of oakum, making of nets, mops, and various other articles for shipping; and in which the most flagrant criminals might very usefully be employed, without availing themselves of any means to facilitate an escape.

Every prisoner on being discharged receives money to carry him home, and thus prevent the danger of an immediate recurrence to those practices which brought him hither.

The Gaoler is active and intelligent, and the whole prison very clean.

I cannot close this narrative without expressing my very grateful acknowledgments to the Magistrates of this highly - respectable County of Devon, for the honour which they have done me, in so conspicuous a manner, by noticing the faithful remarks I had presumed to make in my several visits to Exeter. The result is truly pleasing: where the prisoners heretofore had but loose straw to sleep on, they have now comfortable beds and bedding. Their day-rooms are supplied with every requisite for decency and cleanliness in a prison. The impediments to health, and the consequent hazards of disease, have been removed; and I am happy to learn that a *new Bridewell* is soon to be judiciously constructed, and a manufactory to be established in the Gaols of this county, which were much wanted.

Exeter. The County Bridewell. Gaoler, *William Ford;* salary 70l. Chaplain, Surgeon, see *High Gaol.* Number of prisoners, September 26, 1806, 55. Allowance, at my former visits, 22 ounces of bread, in loaves of that weight, sent from the baker's; but since changed to 11 ounces of bread, and a quart of soup, made of bullocks' heads, oatmeal, rice, and vegetables.

Remarks. This very antient prison, situate in the parish of St. Thomas, is ill constructed, and much out of repair. The Keeper's house commands no part of it.

Here are two court-yards, each having a pump and sewer; but at my last visit, in 1806, the pumps were dry.

Men criminals have a day-room adjoining the Chapel, and two long upper rooms to sleep in. The women have a large apartment, called the *Hall*, for their day-room; it has two fire-places; and above it are two large sleeping-rooms. To each prisoner a bundle of straw only is allowed *per* week to sleep upon; but there are two other rooms, to which the Keeper furnishes beds, at 1s. *per* week, on barrack bedsteads, which hold six prisoners.

Here are likewise three spacious Infirmaries, with fire - places and glazed windows, to which the County allows coals, and better diet, at the discretion of the Surgeon. These are supplied with wooden bedsteads, straw in sacking beds, two blankets, and a rug.

At Chapel, the men sit together on one side, and the women on the other, both in sight of the Minister, whose desk is placed above.

The employment here is chopping and scraping bark, for which are assigned two large rooms or sheds. I have ever found the greatest part of the prisoners thus occupied; and by it some of them have earned eighteen pence a day. In general, however, the men can earn, upon an average, four-pence, and the women two-pence halfpenny *per* day. The whole of their earnings are the Keeper's; who told me, that he rewarded them according to their respective industry.

Mops, brooms, pails, and kettles, are allowed to keep the prison clean, but neither soap nor towels to the prisoners. The Act for Preservation of Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, not hung up.

I understand that a new Bridewell, on a very good plan, adjoining to the High Gaol, is now in building; so that this miserable place of confinement is likely to be soon discontinued. James Neild.

Nichols *and* Son, *Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.*

LETTER LI. ON PRISONS.

"All punishment supposes the infliction pain; but pain is not the proper object punishment. To punish merely for e sake of inflicting pain on the indi-lual is, instead of the considerate hu-nity of a legislator, to exercise the fe-city of a savage."

Crit. Rev. Ser. 2. vol. XII. p. 99.

Mr. Urban, *Sambrook Court, June* 11.

FROM the letters occasionally re-ceived, I am sensible that many eaders have had their attention cited by these periodical commu-cations on the state of Prisons; d perhaps not one of them had eviously formed any adequate idea the misery of a large portion of eir fellow-creatures. Could they ve imagined that a poor debtor s frequently placed in a more mi-rable state than the worst crimi-l? That some, whilst living, were tombed in dungeons, that required ndles to light the passages, and rmed without chimneys for venti-tion? That in the Debtors' County rison the rooms are without bed-g, or even straw to lie upon? at in 1803, there were two sick a hired bed, one in the jaundice, d a fourth dying in a consumption; d that no medical aid or assistance d been extended to these objects? at no magistrate is said to have me there; nor is there any em-oyment for the incarcerated me-anick or labourer?—Could any glishman have suspected that these ngs existed in the polished and ulent city of Exeter? And what ects, except to give pain and sery, without the prospect of re-mation and industry, are they lculated to produce? Can there reformation of morals, where there no Chaplain, nor any religious ties performed or encouraged? n habits of industry be acquired where no employment or labour is promoted?—no magistrate to en-force the exercise of those duties, which their office empowers them to do?

Gentlemen of Exeter have formed a literary society, whose publica-tions evince their learning and re-finement. May their philosophical researches descend to the investiga-tion of the cause and prevention of human infelicity!

J. C. Lettsom.

Exeter. The City and County Gaol.—*Gaoler*, Richard Tarbart. Salary, £30. 10*s*.—Fees, for debtors, 16*s*. 8*d*.; besides which the Under-she-riff demands 3*s*. for his *liberate*. No fees for felons.—For the conveyance of transports, 1*s*. *per* mile.—Garnish, for debtors, not yet abolished, 2*s*.—Chaplain, none.—Surgeon, Mr. *Wal-ker*, for felons only. Salary, none; makes a bill.—Number of prisoners, Sept. 26, 1806, debtors, 4; felons, &c. 9.—Allowance, to debtors, see the Remarks; to felons and criminal pri-soners, one pound and half of bread *per* day, sent from the baker's, and which I have always found of full weight.

Remarks:—This Prison is within the *South-gate*, from which it some-times takes its name; and con-sists, amongst others, of two rooms in the Keeper's house, called the *Long-room*, and the *Shoe*. The lat-ter, it seems, was first denominated from a Shoe that was formerly sus-pended by a string from the iron-grated window towards the street, to solicit the charity of passengers: but the practice is now discontinued, by order of the Magistrates. This room is set apart for such debtors as bring their own beds, and pay six-pence *per* week.

This long-room is for the debtors to walk in, here being no court-yard. There are also nine other rooms,

rooms, to which the Gaoler furnishes beds and bedding, at from 3*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, according to the ability of his prisoners.

It is a singular circumstance; but every week sixty penny loaves (weighing, Oct. 6, 1803, nine ounces and a half each) are sent to the debtors of this Gaol. If only one debtor, he has the whole batch: if more, they are equally divided amongst them. From what source they come was not known in the Gaol; but the Keeper gave me the following account:—Mr. and Mrs. Seldon's legacy, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Mrs. Pengelly, 1*s.*: Mrs. Reed, 6*d.*; and the Chamber of Exeter, 1*s.* Total 5 shillings.

On the side of the gateway opposite to the Gaoler's apartments, are the three wards appropriated to the felons, dark, dirty, and offensive;—we went into them with lighted candles: they have no chimney for ventilation; no court-yard belonging to them; nor water, except what was brought by the Keeper, at his pleasure or convenience. Nothing could exceed the squalid wretchedness of the prisoners.

At my visit in 1803, I found the old Gaoler had been dismissed; a new one appointed; and windows were now made through the wall, which gave sufficient light, without the assistance of candles.

The cell for women (No. 1.) is 16 feet 9 inches by 9 feet 6, and only six feet high. It has barrack bedsteads, with two straw-in-sacking beds, and three rugs each; and is lighted by a window of three feet and an inch, by 2 feet 8 inches.

Cell No. 2, for men, is 9 feet 6, by 8 feet 9, and 12 feet 6 inches high; fitted up with two wooden bedsteads; straw-in-sacking beds, and rugs. The window of this cell is 2 feet 6 inches, by 2 feet.

No. 3, is also a cell for men, 18 feet 6, by 11, and 12 feet high, fitted up as the former, and lighted by a window of 3 feet, by 2 feet and an inch.

Over these miserable night-cells are two day-rooms; the one 17 feet 6 inches by 14 feet 9, and 13 feet 6 inches high, with a window 2 feet 5 by 2 feet; the other, 16 feet 3 by 9 feet, and only 6 feet 3 inches high, with a window of 2 feet 3 inches by 2 feet. Both these day-rooms have fire-places; and coals are allowed for them by the Chamber of Exeter during the six winter months. When prisoners are indulged with the use of these day-rooms, a trap-door is opened in the floor; and they ascend through it, by a ladder, from the cell below.

Besides the foregoing weekly allowance of bread to the debtors, the Taylor's Company give 1*s.* 4*d.* on every Easter Eve; and, at the same time, debtors receive from the *Chamber*, 36 penny loaves; and as many more at Christmas.

Two painted boards are here put up, containing memorials of sundry bequests: they are not dated, and one of them seems to be very antient, *viz.*

LEGACIES.

"A Memorial of certayne guyftes, to the yeerlie value of twenty poundes, geeven by *Laurence Seldon* and *Elizabeth* his wife, to be distributed by the Maior and Bayliffes of the Citie of *Exon*, for ever, as followeth:"

	s.	*d.*
"In bread, weeklie, to the poore prisoners in the Kinge's Gaole, neare the Castell of Exon.	0	6
[*Not paid these many years.*]		
"Prisoners in the Sherive's ward, Gaole, and county of the City of Exon.	2	6

The other memorial, on the second board, is thus:

"*Exon South Gate.*

"Mrs. Hester Reed gave six-pence a-week, for ever, to this Prison; to be paid out of a tenement called *Fen*, in the parish of *Cullumton*, and laid out in middling wheat bread, and distributed always to the prisoner in the *Shew* (Shoe)."

The following memorial is framed and hung up:

"*Francis Pengelly* of this City, apothecary, by deed, dated the 1st of January, 1700, gave two pounds twelve shillings a-year, to be laid out in bread, for the use of the debtors in this prison, for ever; issuing out of his estate called the Dolphin inn, and premises adjoining, situate in the parish of St. Mary Major, in the said City."

This estate was sold in 1805, and £1095. 19*s.* 6*d.* Three *per Cent.* Consolidated Annuities purchased with the

the produce, in the names of W. B. Kennaway, Thomas Smith, A. Tozer, and G. Gifford.

Debtors likewise receive ten shillings yearly from the Chamber of Exeter, on the Monday fortnight following St. Michael's day; ten shillings a-year from the Church, at the disposal of the Keeper; and sixpence a-year from the Lay-Vicars of the Church, the day their Court is held at *Woodberry*.

There is no memorial in the Prisons at Exeter of the following donations, mentioned in Richard Izacke's Alphabetical Register, &c. printed in 1736. Such valuable registers of persons' last wills, grants, &c. in other cities, would prevent the misapplication of many charities.

Reynold Hayne, in 1354, bequeathed all his lands and tenements lying in the suburbs of the said City, to the Cathedral Church of St. Peter there, for the relief of those imprisoned in the Common Gaol. This legacy appears to be lost.

William Paramore, by will, 22d February, 1570, bequeathed to the needy prisoners in the King's Gaol in Exeter, in the *South Gate* there, and in the Counters, to every of them, ten shillings for ever, yearly, to be paid out of his lands in the *Cook Row* in Exeter.

This is regularly paid to the prisoners in the South Gate.

Thomas Bridgeman, by will, 3d April, 1641, gave to the said City the sum of sixty pounds, to be continued as a perpetual stock; whereof the interest of forty pounds to be bestowed upon the prisoners in the Upper Prison; and the interest of the other twenty pounds to be bestowed upon the prisoners in the Lower Prison; and this likewise to continue for ever. This legacy appears to be lost.

Edward Young, D. D. 6th June, 1663, by will, gave twenty shillings a-year to the prisoners of the Castle, to be distributed by the Dean of Exeter, for the time being, on the 29th of May.

Transports in this Gaol have not the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week. Here is no bath, nor oven. The Gaol is but seldom *visited*. The Act for Preservation of Health is not exhibited: but the Prohibitory Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are written on paper, and stuck up. No rules and orders. It is not in the power of repairing to make this a good Prison; but it is to be hoped this opulent *City* will follow the example of the *County*, and build, ere long, a new one in its stead.

Exeter. The County Prison for Debtors: — Gaoler, *Richard Rice*. Salary, £25. Garnish, prohibited by the Prison Rules, yet generally exacted by the prisoners. — Chaplain, none; nor any religious attentions whatever, notwithstanding the great number of persons here confined. — Surgeon, none.—Number of debtors, September 13, 1806, nineteen.—Allowance, at my first visits, none; but now, two shillings *per* week, in cases of extreme poverty, upon application made to the magistrates.

Remarks:—This Prison, called the *Sheriff's Ward*, is in the parish of Saint Thomas the Apostle. The boundary-wall is of mud, with a thatch coping; except a small part of brick which fronts the street. It incloses about an acre of ground; and from the Turnkey's lodge to the Prison is a walk of 60 yards, shaded by a double row of large elms, and well supplied with water. For master's-side debtors there are seven rooms, with beds and bedding furnished by the Keeper, for which they pay as *per* Table: one of the rooms has seven beds, and two slept in each bed. Common-side debtors have six rooms, and each pays 6*d.* a-week; but neither bedding nor straw. Two were sick in bed; another had the jaundice, and a fourth in the last stage of a consumption, at my Visit in 1803, *without any medical assistance*. At the left entrance of the Prison is a room 19 feet by 18, which still retains the name of "*Church*;" the reading-desk remains, and on the walls are portions of Scripture; but it is now the common day-room. On the right of the passage is a room called the Pin-hole, with a fire-place and glazed-window, where debtors dress their provisions; and adjoining to it is the Strong-room, which has a fire-place and small glazed window, a barrack bedstead, but no bedding, nor even straw, to sleep upon. This is the only free ward in the Prison. The building is very

very old; the rooms dirty, and swarming with bugs. It is a fortunate circumstance, in so crowded a prison, that the court is spacious and airy. Here are Rules and Orders, signed by the Under - sheriff only; but no attention is paid to them. There are constant broils between the Keeper and his guests, and it is difficult to determine where the fault most lies. The Gaoler says, *no magistrate ever comes there* without being sent for; and any one visiting this Prison must see the necessity of Rules and Orders, both for prisoners and keepers, being fixed by the Legislature. The Gaoler adds, that his salary being so small, his whole dependance is on the hire of his beds, and prison fees. It is difficult to conceive the extreme wretchedness and misery this Gaol exhibits. The debtors (for the most part mechanicks and labourers) seem to be more unfortunate than criminal, and have an abundant claim to pity and relief. No employment, nor rooms to work in, if it were procured. One prisoner (Anne Fisher, who had been committed for contempt, Nov. 13, 1791) I saw here in 1803; but at my last visit she was discharged. J. Neild.

Nichols *and* Son, *Printers, Red Lion-passage, Fleet-street.*

LETTER LII. ON PRISONS.

"When a man is transported from the ight of the sun and the verdure of the arth, where he might roam without restraint amid the beauties of creation, to a ungeon confined and dark, where he ust breathe an unwholesome air, till ches and rheumatisms paralyze his limbs ..the loss of liberty is worse than death."

CRIT. REV. vol. XIV. p. 536.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook-court, July* 10.

FROM the readiness of many of the Magistrates to attend to the uggestions of the benevolent writer f the following letter, it may be oped that some active exertions may e made, to remedy the evils pointed ut.

But what a picture of human mi- ery is here exhibited, of a poor ebtor descending into dungeons, by 2 steps! There is a promise to im who is good to the poor, of eing "strengthened on the bed of anguishing, and the pillow softened nder sickness*." Will the prose- utor who sends the prisoner into hese caverns of stone, finally re- ose on a bed of down?

J. C. LETTSOM.

NOTTINGHAM. Gaoler, *John Holt*; alary £140. Fees, Debtors 13*s*. 4*d*. ad to the Turnkey 1*s*. besides which, he Under Sheriff demands 4*s*. for his *berate!* For Felons, no fees. Gar- ish abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Wil- am Gill*. Duty, prayers every Thurs- ay, and prayers and sermon every Sunday, Christmas-day, and Good-Friday. Salary £50. Surgeon, Mr. *Partridge*; salary, for Debtors and Felons, &c. £30. Number of prisoners on the 19th March, 1800, Debtors 7, Felons, &c. 7; on the 29th September, 1805, Debtors 8, Felons, &c. 5. Allowance, sixteen ounces of bread *per* day. Felons have the same allowance in bread, with one penny *per* day in money, and one penny *per* week for soap each. The assize convicts under sentence of transportation, I am informed by the Gaoler, have the County allowance of bread, in addition to the King's allowance of 2*s*. 6*d*. *per* week to live upon.

Remarks. This Gaol adjoins to, and stands on the South side of, the County or *Shire Hall*. It is situate on the declivity of a hill. The entrance to it is down a passage from the street, leading to the Turnkey's Lodge; and close to this is the Debtors court-yard, of 100 feet by 41, with a flagged terrace, and handsome iron palisades, commanding a view of three Counties.

On the East side of the Debtors court, is their day apartment, or common mess-room, 17 feet by 10, with a glazed window, a fire-place, and side-oven; and also three good-sized sleeping-rooms.

On the North side are three sleeping-rooms; one of which has been lately converted to its proper use out of the Keeper's stable, now disused;

* Psalm xli. 3.

used; the average size 22 feet eight inches by 11 feet.

Women Debtors have a room 20 feet square, which has a flagged floor with arched roof, a fire-place, and a large window, that, very improperly, looks into the men's court.

To all the above-mentioned rooms the Keeper supplies beds and bedding at 3*s.* *per* week for a single person, or at 2*s.* *per* week if two sleep together.

Over the mess-room is a small Chapel, 23 feet by 20 feet six inches, which has four glazed windows. The sexes are separated, and all attended divine service when I was here.

The poorer Debtors who cannot afford to pay for a bed, are most uncomfortably provided for in this County prison. Their descent is by *twenty-eight* steps to three miserable sleeping-rooms, called *free wards.* The two largest, about 12 feet by nine, have fire-places; the third, which formerly was the *condemned room,* or place assigned for convicts under sentence of death, is about nine feet square, and has in it a wooden bedstead; and all have a small iron-grated and glazed window. The Debtors here confined are obliged to furnish their own beds, which yet necessity only in the extreme can induce, or rather compel, them to occupy.

A considerable part of the North side of the Debtors court-yard is occupied by a large dust-hole and dung-yard, leading to arcades, under which are a capacious and convenient bath, with a copper to warm it when necessary, but they are seldom used. Two pumps and three cisterns supply the bath, the Gaoler's house, and the whole prison, with soft water from the river *Leen:* it is sometimes muddy, and at other times must be fetched from the bath. There is a well in the Felons old court, near the Keeper's parlour, which if a pump were put down, would supply the whole prison with excellent spring-water. The well was covered over in the year 1799, for which the only reason I could hear assigned was, that some prisoners, then here, had thrown improper things into it.

The arcades under the County-hall would afford good room for work-shops, and comfortable *free wards* for the poor or common-side Debtors; and adjoining to the Turnkey's-lodge there is sufficient space for a small court-yard, to accommodate the Women Debtors.

For Felons, at a descent of *forty-two* steps, here are two dark and damp dungeons, called "The *Pits,*" cut out of the friable sandy rock; one of which (23 feet by 13 and seven feet high) appears not to have been used for a long time. The one, occupied at the time of my visits, is nearly circular, 12 feet in diameter, supplied with barrack-bedsteads; and opposite to it in a narrow passage are three cells, each 8 feet by 5. All the light or ventilation these subterranean abodes can receive, is from two circular apertures over the doors, of seven inches in diameter. Each has a wooden bedstead with loose straw thrown upon them, and two rugs: the doorways only four feet six inches high and two feet wide.

The court-yard appendant to these cells is that which heretofore had the well in it; and close to the Keeper's door is raised an open iron-palisaded fence of 10 feet by 5, to prevent the Felons rushing out. Their court-yard, 39 feet by 28, is paved with flag-stones; and their day, or mess-room, is in the centre of it.

The *newly-built part* of the Felons Gaol has a court-yard for the men 25 feet by 18, with a day or mess-room 22 feet by 10. For women here are arcades about sixteen feet square, and a day-room 46 feet by 18. To each day-room there is a fire-place with side-oven.

Over these apartments are five sleeping-cells for men and three for women, which open into a lobby five feet wide, with a wooden door of separation. Each is about 9 feet by 7, arched roof, with a semicircular grated and glazed window; a grating of like form over each door. They were heretofore only supplied with a wooden bedstead each for two prisoners, loose straw, and two rugs; but the considerate Magistrates have lately ordered a bed for every cell, and to these new cells they have added a stove, to introduce warmth.

The doorways to these cells are 4 feet 6 inches high by 2 feet 6 wide, and cased with iron. In the Old and New

w Gaol are twelve sleeping-lls.

Prisoners on their discharge from ice have money proportionally nted, to carry them home.

When convicts are left for exe-tion, it is customary to confine em, during the day-time, in a room, feet by 10, with two windows in a fire-place, and a table. Here ey are duly supplied with religious oks; they have tea twice a day, d a hot dinner; and are daily at-nded by the Chaplain, or other ergyman.

At the West end of the County-hall ere is a very convenient and suit-le place for the awful business of ecutions, and where a platform ght be occasionally or perma-ntly fixed, as at *Chelmsford*, *Read-g*, and many other places. Instead which, the poor wretches are agged through the town in a cart, a place about a mile distant, to e preposterous gratification of un-eling curiosity, that "knows no otherly yearnings," and to the dis-ace of civilized society!

Some years since, the following ngular incident happened with re-ect to the Prison, which is vouch-l by good authority:—On the 19th February, 1787, two women *Mabel Morris* and *Elizabeth Morris)* ere committed to this Gaol, by rtue of a Bishop's Writ, and con-ned there till the 25th of February, 799; when, some repairs being anted at the Prison, their doors ere thrown open; they sent for a art, in which their goods were aded in the day-time, and the wo-en went out unmolested. Appli-ation was made to the Sheriff, to now if they were to be brought ack to prison, but nothing was one; and, at my last visit, in Sept. 805, they resided at Calverton, in is county. The sanction for the onfinement of a prisoner upon the bove-mentioned process runs thus:

"For as much as the Royal power ught not to be wanting to the Holy hurch in its complaint—You are ommanded to attach the said * * * y his [or her] body, according to he law and custom of England, ntil he [or she] shall have made atisfaction to the Holy Church, as vell for the contempt, as for the in-ury by him [or her] done unto it."

One cannot help wishing, that the *Reformation* or the *Revolution*, or any other adequate and legal interference, had done away the power of such imprisonment.

List *of* Legacies *and* Donations.

John Sherwin, Esq. of Nottingham, four pounds *per annum;* now paid quarterly by *John Longdon*, Esq. out of an estate at Branscote, purchased by Mr. Sherwin of the descendants of Henry Handley, Esq. the donor.

By *Samuel Smith*, Esq. M.P. for Nottingham, pursuant to the will of Mr. Abel Collings, four shillings monthly to the prisoners, for coals.

John Elliott, Esq. of Nottingham, sends to all the prisoners beef, bread, and ale at Christmas.

The Rev. Mr. *Gill*, Chaplain, sends a large piece of beef at Christmas.

Lady *Warren* sends twelve stone of beef, at different times, to the Debtors.

The High Sheriffs, for the last three years, have sent five ton of coals, and bread, beef, and ale to all the prisoners.

The Grand Jury, at the Assizes, make a collection for the criminal prisoners, to the amount of from thirty to forty shillings.

Here, as at Derby, Horsham, &c. a man goes round the country about Christmas, and collects money at gentlemen's houses for the debtors.

	£.	s.	d.
In 1802, the collection amounted to - - - -	52	4	10
Paid to *John Branderith*, the collector, being out 12 weeks and four days, at two guineas *per* week	26	8	0
Nett amount - - -	25	16	10

Distributed as follows:

1802.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Dec. 26, 4 debtors, each	1	14	11	6	19	8
1803.						
Jan. 17, 5 ditto - -	1	15	4	8	16	8
Feb. 26, 6 ditto - -	1	3	4	7	0	0
Mar. 3, 7 ditto - -	0	6	6	2	5	0
1 ditto - -	0	15	6	0	15	6
				25	16	10

In 1803, the collection was £28. 2*s.* 2*d.* In 1804, it amounted to £56. 10*s.* 10*d.* The particulars of distribution will be narrated in my State of Prisons, now preparing for the press.

I here

I here beg leave to pay my respectful acknowledgements to William Elliott Elliott, esq. of Gedling House, late High Sheriff of this county, who humanely accompanied me to the prisons, hospital, and work-houses; and also to the worthy Magistrates in general, for the polite notice they were pleased to take of my suggestions, relative to the state of the gaols at Nottingham and Southwell.

My dear Friend,

The above Remarks on the County Gaol of Nottingham will, I fear, occupy too much of Mr. Urban's valuable Miscellany, to admit of adding the Town Gaol to it. But I cannot close the narrative without observing, that the *Old Castle* presents one of the fines situations in the kingdom for a new Gaol, together with the Courts of Justice, &c. for the whole of which the antient pile of ruins seems capable of affording an ample, if not a sufficient supply of materials. I hope the period is not far distant, when the judicious Magistrates of so respectable a County will turn their attention towards this important object, as a lasting monument of humanity; and am,

Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

To Doctor Lettsom, London.

NICHOLS *and* SON, *Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet-street.*

LETTER LIII. ON PRISONS.

"It shall be with him, and he shall read therein, that he may learn to fear the Lord." Deut. xvii. 19.

Mr. Urban, *Sambrook-court, August* 21.

THE following history is so copious, as would have induced me to avoid troubling the publick with any remarks of mine, had not the occasion been offered of noticing the attention exercised towards the prisoners, of introducing religious books, to suit the conditions of the objects confined†. In the regulations of Massachusetts State Prison, in America, Sect. 1. Art. 4. it is expressly ordered, that "the Superintendant shall procure such books as the Chaplain may think necessary and useful for the prisoners, and they shall be permitted to use no other." On that Continent, prisoners are confined, not merely for punishment, but likewise for reformation. It is there specifically enjoined: "That the Chaplain shall consider it his duty, as frequently as may be consistent with other avocations, to see the prisoners alone in their rooms, to enquire into their states, to instruct them in spiritual concerns, to distribute moral and religous books among them at his discretion, and to do all other things within his province which shall aid this design of the Government in reforming the prisoners." Sect. 2. Art. 2.

† Compare Letters X. XX. XXII.

A similar spirit is laudably extending in this country, and many respectable characters have devoted their labours to improve and reform the prisoner; and I conclude this letter with pleasure, in recommending "Sermons for Prisons; to which are added, Prayers for the use of Prisoners in solitary confinement. By John Brewster, M. A. Chaplain to Lord Viscount Falkland, and Lecturer of Stockton-upon-Tees," as well as a respectable Magistrate. J. C. Lettsom.

Norwich Castle. Gaoler, *John Johnson*; salary £160. and also allowed two Turnkeys, to whom the County pays 10*s*. 6*d*. each *per* week. Fees and Garnish abolished.—Chaplain, Rev. *Peter Hansell*; duty, prayers and sermon on Sunday, and prayers on Tuesday and Friday; salary £50.—Surgeon, *Edward Rigby*, esq. Mayor of Norwich in the year 1805. And here let me seize the occasion of paying my respectful acknowledgments to the then worthy Chief Magistrate, for his politeness in accompanying me to the Prisons, Hospital, and Workhouses of this city. Salary, £40. for Debtors and Felons.—Number of Prisoners 1805, Sept. 6, 12, Felons, &c. 12. Debtors Total 24.—Allowance: To Debtors, one pound and half of bread *per* day, and half a pound of cheese *per* week, each; one bushel of coals to each room weekly in winter, and half a bushel in summer, to be increased or diminished at the discretion of the visiting

visiting Magistrates. To Felons, and other Criminal Prisoners, two pounds of bread daily, and half a pound of cheese *per* week each; with an allowance of coals regulated according to the number in custody, so as to avoid superfluity and waste.

Remarks. This Castle is seated on the summit of a lofty hill, and the Prison has been enlarged of late by additional buildings. The Gaoler's house is on the right of the entrance, and on the ground-floor are his parlour, and the visiting Magistrates' Committee room. The latter, however, was heretofore seldom used, on account of a drain below the window, which at times made both rooms intolerably offensive. The Keeper has also four bed-rooms, two on the first floor, and two on the second.

A small area, of 18 feet 6 by 15 feet, divides the Keeper's house from the Turnkey's-lodge on the left. And over it is the Chapel, in which the gallery is appropriated to Debtors, and the lower part to Criminal Prisoners. The Master's-side Debtors, or those of the better order, who are on the Keeper's side of the Prison, have five rooms 12 feet by 7, with a fire-place in each, and glazed windows; but of these the casements, 20 inches only by 12, are too small.

On the Chapel side are three rooms 10 feet square, with glazed windows, but no fire-place; and four others 15 feet by 10, with fire-places, and windows scanty like the former.

The Debtors' court-yard is 37 feet by 26, with a pump in it, which is supplied with water from another pump in the Felons' court-yard.

The Women Debtors, of the Master's side, have three cells, each 9 feet by 7, with a day-room 12 feet square, and a fire-place in it and glazed windows. Their court-yard is 17 feet by 7.

To all the above rooms the Keeper furnishes beds and bedding at from 1s. 6*d.* per week each to 4s. The prices are painted on the doors, but none of these lodging-rooms have sufficient air to be wholesome.

Common-side Debtors, Men and Women, have six sleeping-rooms, each 9 feet by 7; a day-room 12 feet square, with a fire-place; and all the windows are glazed. These rooms have each a bedstead, rush-mat, two blankets, or in winter three, and a rug, supplied by the County. Their court-yard is 24 feet square, with an arcade of 18 feet square; and the pump there is likewise supplied from that in the Felons' court.

Male and Female Debtors have only one day-room. Their friends are admitted from nine o'clock till seven in the summer, and from nine till four in winter, every day except Sundays, when no visitors are allowed.

The Female Felons, Convicts and Misdemeanours, have a court-yard 13 feet by 8. For some years they had two rooms only of about 8 feet square, with glazed windows in both, and a fire-place in the lower room; but *now*, a good lodging apartment, of 24 feet by 14, and 8 feet 6 inches high, has been added for their accommodation, over their day-room. They have no water accessible however, except what is fetched from the common-side Debtors' pump.

The Male Criminal Prisoners of all descriptions are confined in the older part of the building; and have one court-yard only 54 feet by 32; on each side of which are arcades under the cells for prisoners to take air and exercise in bad weather. Their cells are in all thirty-six, each 9 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, and furnished with an iron bedstead, wood-bottomed, two mats, two blankets in summer, or three in winter, and a rug; the windows not glazed, but have inside shutters. They have also seven day-rooms of 14 feet each by 12, three only of which have fire-places.

In each of the cells a tub is substituted for an urinal; and on every landing-place are sewers, which from their construction are rendered very offensive. The cells are ventilated by a circular aperture over each door, and likewise by a small pot-hole made in each door.

Felons are always divested of their own apparel on being brought into custody, and the County cloathing put on; when going to be tried they have their own cloaths given them. After conviction the County dress is always resumed. Their washing of linen is all done out of the Gaol, at the County's expence. Misdemeanours also, if received in a dirty offensive state, are always stripped and washed previous to their being admitted into the interior of the Gaol.

Out

Out of two of the Felons' court-arcades, two cells, 9 feet by 7, have been constructed for refractory Debtors. In the same court-yard there is also an Hospital. On the ground-floor is a bath, not used. On the upper-floor are two *convalescent-rooms*, one 15 feet by 8, with a fire-place; the other, without one, 10 feet by 6; these are furnished with iron, wooden - bottomed, bedsteads, and suitable bedding. Above these is the *hospital* or *infirmary-rooms*, 17 feet by 14, with fire-place and glazed windows; ventilated by leaden pipes run through the roof, and fitted up with a wooden bedstead and hangings, beds, bolster, pillows, a regular change of linen, &c.

There seems to be no proper store-room in the whole Prison. The general employment here consists of tailor's-work and shoemaking, cutting pegs, skewers, and making nets of various sorts. Debtors are allowed to work if they can procure the means from without, and they have all they earn. Criminal Prisoners have nine-pence in the shilling of their earnings; and the Keeper has the other threepence for furnishing them with implements and materials.

Many are the comforts here afforded by the considerate Magistrates to alleviate the burden and soothe the sorrows of imprisonment. A nurse or matron is constantly retained, and paid 6*s.* *per* week by the County. Her duty is to attend the sick daily, whether Criminals or poor Debtors, and to provide for them broth, gruel, milk-pottage, wine, extra diet, &c. by order of their Surgeon, of whose professional abilities, humanity, and assiduous attentions, the Hospital and Prison books bear ample record.

A porter or errand-man is also employed at 9*s.* *per* week by the County, to purchase articles of food, and other needful accommodations for all the prisoners. Every Debtor is allowed to purchase one quart of ale or porter daily, but not more; and no other liquor is permitted to be introduced except by order of the Surgeon in cases of sickness.

Bibles, prayer-books, and religious tracts adapted to their condition, are most humanely furnished by the County, and delivered out to the prisoners at the judicious discretion of their worthy Chaplain.

Mops, brooms, pails, towels, washing-bowls, coal-boxes, &c. are liberally supplied by the Magistrates for their use; so that not their persons only, but all parts of the Prison, may be kept in a state of cleanliness and comfort; and the orders given to this end I found literally obeyed by the attentive Keeper.

Thus much may be said on the subject in a style of honest eulogy. But all that truth equally demands, as arising from a close inspection of this very interesting and important Gaol, has not yet been said. The defects in its construction are many, and great: the frequent escapes from it prove that it is insecure; and hence a visitor finds, and is sorry to find, that almost all the Prisoners are in irons.

There is a want of arrangement also in the distribution of the building. The Gaoler's house commands but a very imperfect view of the whole Prison. The court-yards are small, and the air, of course, is rendered impure. Almost every chimney smokes; the sewers (so called from delicacy) are all *dead wells*, about five feet deep into the solid earth, and without any offset or drain, so, as to vitiate the adjacent atmosphere. One rainy morning during my visit, even the worthy Gaoler's parlour was unbearably nauseous; and to retreat from it was thought a luxury, whilst conning my notes, and endeavouring to establish that veracity of which none who read these remarks, and have ever been there, at the period I am speaking of, will ever doubt. The situation and the state of these too-often - neglected particulars are really of the greatest consequence in places of confinement, and have ever engaged my peculiar attention, as principal ingredients of unhealthiness in many of our Gaols.

The lobbies or passages in this Gaol are scarcely wide enough for a single person; nor is there any proper distinction or decent separation observed between the sexes or classes of its inhabitants. Above all other considerations, however, this last, though little regarded, is in fact the most important, "as it affects the MORALS." The guilty of atrocious crimes, and the

the barely-suspected of venial faults, should never be mixed together. In little, and far-distant abodes of durance vile, it may, because it *must*, be seen and passed by, as locally irremediable. But never so, surely, in the Gaol or the Bridewell of a large, an opulent, and a well-informed *County*, to which many others in the kingdom may look up for precedence in liberal regulation.

Under these impressions it was that at my last visit, I left the city of Norwich; a city which I shall ever remember with respect and gratitude for the great attention with which the Magistrates were pleased to honour my remarks, and for the civilities and politeness I personally received from many virtuous and philanthropic characters.

Legacies to Norwich Castle Gaol.

Mrs. *Frances Kemp* (an extract of whose will I have by me) formerly bequeathed three pounds to the poor of Norwich and Heydon: thirty shillings for preaching three sermons a year, and thirty shillings to the prisoners in the Hall and Castle Gaols annually for ever. For the payment she bound an estate in Heydon, left her by her father *John Mingay*, esq.

The payment of these legacies to the poor Prisoners has for many years been cruelly withheld. The Gaolers could furnish me with only one solitary instance of 5*s*. being paid by the parish of St. Stephen.

J. Norris, esq. late of Witton, left by will five guineas annually for ever, the dividends of *three per Cent. Consols*, to purchase religious books, for the use of *all prisoners* in the Castle Gaol; and ordained that any overplus of that sum should be distributed amongst the most needy and deserving *Felon Prisoners*, or be laid out in the weekly purchase of beef, for all the Felon Prisoners indiscriminately, at the discretion of the Dean and resident Prebendaries. To this legacy an addition was made in November 1797, by the purchase of twenty-five pounds *three per Cent. Consols*; so that seven guineas are now allowed yearly by the Dean and Chapter, to be expended as aforesaid.

Every prisoner in this place attended Divine Service at Chapel when I was here, in September 1805. Their behaviour was orderly, and they were suitably attentive to every appropriate and impressive discourse from Mr. Hansell.

Here is no alarm-bell. The Clauses for prohibiting the use of spirituous Liquors are hung up conspicuously in the Gaol, and Abstracts from the Rules and Orders stuck up in various parts of the Prison; but, singularly enough, the Act for Preserving the Health of Prisoners is placed in the Crown Court of the adjacent Shire Hall; and of course the Prisoners here have not a chance of ever seeing it.

The annual average of commitments for the last seven years, Debtors 57, Felons 103, Misdemeanours 23.

James Neild.

Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet-street.

LETTER LIV. ON PRISONS.

"Le travail éloigne de nous trois grands maux, l'ennui, le vice, et le besoin *."

VOLTAIRE.

HOWEVER important it may be to the security and prosperity of mercantile relations, to reduce a freeman to the subjection of incarceration; a variety of contingencies, independently of dishonourable principle, may reduce a person to a state of bankruptcy; yet, admitting of misconduct, or even criminality, it is difficult to explain the utility of a tedious confinement, after every thing has been delivered up to the creditor. It cannot improve morals, but may promote degeneracy; and, in many instances, locks-up industry, which might be exercised to the benefit of the creditor, and to the protection and support of an innocent wife and helpless children. Dr. Johnson, in an excellent essay in the Idler, Howard on Prisons, and Beccaria, with the Commentary of Voltaire, have forcibly exposed the impolicy and cruelty of this practice, beyond the powers of my pen; whilst the debtor in this polished nation continues, in many instances, an object of greater severity of treatment, than the worst criminal. Even the prison of Horsham, in some respects highly to be approved, extends no medical aid to the sick debtor, although a regular establishment is afforded to the Felons! Let it be recorded, however, to the honour of the Surgeon who attends them, that he humanely and gratuitously devotes his professional aid to the neglected debtor, which could not escape the notice of the benevolent Neild. But it is no longer a matter of surprize, that medical relief should be withheld from those to whom bread is denied, unless upon supplication as a pauper; and then the pittance of one pound of bread a day is allowed, to keep body and soul longer united in a miserable existence! To have rendered this less miserable, one laudable plan yet remained, in the exercise and indulgence of labour; but this is prevented by magisterial power; and thus idleness and its consequent vices are substituted for industry and its usual attendant morality. What a climax is presented! The poor debtor wants food; the means of acquiring it is labour; but labour is denied, and want confirmed. Idleness is the root of evil, and industry its antidote; but employment is prevented, and thus vice and immorality are promoted!

* Labour rids us of three great evils, irksomeness, vice, and poverty.

Sussex affords many sources of high gratification. Its coast is the resort of the wealthy invalid, as well as of the gay and the voluptuous. In this county, horse-races, and various modes of dissipating *ennui* and fortunes, are presented. But, amidst these recreations, does the state of the poor debtor ever intrude on the mind of the affluent? or is his single loaf seasoned and meliorated by the superfluities of satiety and luxury?

I cannot conclude this letter without noticing the confinement of a debtor for the space of 41 years, for a debt of fifteen pounds. It is said, that he is insane. Is there any thing wonderful, that treatment of this character should produce insanity?

This instance of wretchedness seems to equal, if not exceed, that of Hugh Robert Evans in the Gaol of Dolgelly (Letter IV. on Prisons), whom Mr. Neild got liberated from that wretched prison, after twenty years confinement! J. C. Lettsom.

Horsham, Sussex. The County Gaol and Bridewell. Gaoler, *Samuel Smart.* Salary, £120. Three turnkeys are also assigned him, to each of whom the County pays 13*s.* *per* week. Fees of every kind are very laudably done away.—Garnish, prohibited, but not yet abolished; as sometimes *debtors* exact of newcomers a pot of beer, or a pint of wine. Shall felons teach debtors reason, prudence, and œconomy, in the hours of poverty and distress?—Chaplain, Rev. *William Jameson.* Duty, prayers every day, and a weekly sermon. Salary £50.—Surgeon, Mr. Dubbins, for the felons, and other criminal prisoners. Salary, £20. ☞ As medical assistance does not yet here extend to *poor debtors*, this humane *practitioner* has hitherto attended them *gratuitously.*

"*Hic vir, hic* Homo *est; alibi videte, Chirurgi.*"

Number of prisoners, May 24, 1807, ten debtors, twenty-seven felons, &c. and one lunatick. Allowance, debtors, none; except to paupers, who, upon application, have one pound of bread *per* day, sent in loaves from the baker's, and weighed by the Gaoler. Felons, and other criminal prisoners, two pounds of bread, in loaves, which I have always found to be of full weight. Transports have the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week.

Remarks. The situation of this Prison, judiciously chosen, is a little way out of the town. In the door of the Keeper's house is placed a "Poor's Box," for obtaining small or other donations, in aid of prisoners' sixpences. A small garden extends along the front of the building.

Here are two spacious court-yards, of about half an acre each, with gravel walks surrounding a fine grass-plat; both courts are well supplied with excellent water; and the wall which encircles them encloses the whole Prison.

It has two floors, built over arcades; and the ascent to each is by a stone staircase, skirted with iron rails. On each floor, both on the debtors' and felons' side, are distributed ten rooms, five on each side a passage five feet wide: a day-room also to each, of 28 feet by 12 feet 3 inches; and a lodging-room for the turnkeys.

Each debtor and felon has a separate room of 10 feet by 7, and 9 feet high, to the crown of the arch. They are all arched over with brick, to prevent danger and confusion in case of fire; and to each room are two doors, one of wood, the other iron-latticed; a shutter for the window, with a pane of knobbed glass in it, a wooden bedstead, a straw-in-canvas bed, and two blankets. The County likewise is so considerate as to allow each common room of both descriptions half a bushel of coals *per* day during the six winter months, two tin kettles, and a wooden scuttle.

A turnkey, paid by the County, goes twice a-day to purchase provisions and liquors for the debtors; and it is very properly fixed, that they shall not exceed each one pint of wine, or a quart of strong beer a day. The magistrates have supplied the Prison with scales and weights, for the use of its inhabitants; and I have always found the loaves of full weight, as sent in from the baker's.

Here is no regular infirmary; but two apartments, with fire-places, are set apart distinctly for the respective sick.

The Chapel, which is in the Keeper's house, has a gallery for the Gaoler and his family. The pulpit is on the same level: the area below is 17 feet by 15, and has parallel benches for the prisoners; so that debtors and

and felons of both sexes sit opposite each other, but almost close together. Every prisoner absent from Divine Service without a proper cause is punished either by close confinement, or short allowance. Religious books, at the county expence, are distributed by the worthy Chaplain; and when I was there in July 1806, not only all the prisoners attended Chapel, but their deportment was orderly and attentive.

The Gaoler's house does not seem to command a proper view of the court-yards; this might be remedied, however, by a window made in his kitchen, towards the debtors' court, and also in his parlour, next to that of the felons'. Sitting benches also in the day-rooms would be very convenient, and shelves for depositing the prisoners' plates and provisions; instead of which, at present, there are only the naked walls.

Felons, at their entrance, are washed with warm water, and each man is clothed with the gaol uniform coat, waistcoat, and breeches; also two shirts, two pair of stockings, a pair of shoes, a hat, and a woollen cap. Here is likewise an oven to purify offensive clothes, and a place to hang them up till the prisoner is discharged.

At my two or three former visits, the County allowed those debtors to work who could procure employment, by which many not only supported themselves comfortably, but gave some assistance to their poor families. I was sorry to be informed in 1806, that this salutary indulgence was withheld, and the whole number (28) in a state of idleness, no work whatever being permitted in the gaol.

In many of our best governed prisons it is a maxim, that every attention possible should be paid to the means of labour.

Sir George Paul very justly observes, that "*Debtors*, and the *unconvicted*, should, doubtless, be allowed to employ the wages of their own industry, to make life more comfortable; but *under such restrictions as the good government of the prison renders indispensable.* What is it less than a palpable absurdity to commit a pennyless offender *till he pays a fine*, and deny him the exercise of his art and industry to enable him to redeem his liberty?"

Since writing the above, however, candour obliges me to add, that I have been informed some debtors in Horsham Gaol had heretofore attempted to escape; and that some others would not conform to the Rules and *Restrictions* of the house, which caused the above prohibition of work, as the most effectual mode of correction.

Every Christmas a man goes about the county to collect donations for the relief of poor debtors here confined. The money thus procured is distributed amongst them at 2*s.* *per* week, till the whole net produce is expended. In 1805, the contribution amounted to £67. 2*s.*; and in 1806, to £84. 11*s.* 11*d.*; out of which the collector had one fourth for his expences, time, and trouble.

At my several visits here, I recollect to have seen one *Simon Southward*, a debtor, who is said to have been committed to Horsham Gaol so long since as the 22d of February, *One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven*, for a debt of £15. He styles himself (if still alive) *Simon Earl of Derby, King* in *Man;* and is very orderly and inoffensive, though evidently deranged. He is now allowed 6*s.* a-week by the parish.

There are excellent *Rules* and *Orders* for the government of this Gaol, printed and hung up; as are the Clauses against Spirituous liquors; but not the Act for Preservation of Health.

The sewers throughout are very judiciously placed.

The *Lent* assizes for Sussex are held at East Grinstead; and the *Summer* alternately at Lewes and Horsham.

JAMES NEILD.

NICHOLS and SON, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet-street.

LETTER LV. ON PRISONS.

"Hoc ideò (dedic. templi) facere non icunque permittitur, nisi castæ manus, si familiaris sacris animus accesserit *."

QUINT. Declam. cccxxiii. p. 238.

N the whole course of the correspondence on Prisons, the duties of Religion, and the decorum d reverence in exercising them, well as a decent appearance of the aces appropriated to their permance, have ever been seriously commended †; but in the subsenent Letter, the most obvious deciency is presented, as it respects e place used for Divine Worship, d the anomalous congregation it mits.

Whoever seriously considers the ture and object of adoration, will ither enter nor leave the Sanctuary ith levity: the Royal Psalmist ‡, nder this impression, reverentially eclares, "I will wash my hands in nocence, so will I compass thy tar." This well coincides with one the axioms of Pythagoras, as reorded by Jamblichus §, "Never to ter into the temple immediately om the way-side, as if the worship God were a merely accidental, ansient, and supernumerary busiess."

How different, indeed, is the conict of too many persons, who poss superior information to prisoners general! If a degradation of the nctuary and its officers be famiarized, religious and moral duties will be disregarded, and the influence of depravity extended.

J. C. LETTSOM.

HUNTINGDON. Gaoler, *William Aveling*. Salary £105. from the County, and £4. from the Corporation. Also allowed £6. *per annum*, to supply the criminals with straw for bedding. Fees, debtors, 12*s*. 6*d*. Felons, &c. 13*s*. 4*d*. Besides which, the Under-sheriff demands of each debtor, four shillings for his *Liberate!* Garnish, 2*s*. 6*d*. by order of the Magistrates; a most singular *regulation*.—Chaplain, Rev. *Daniel Williams*. Duty, prayers and sermon every Wednesday. Salary, £20. and £10. for the Bridewell.—Surgeon, Mr. *Desborough*, for felons only. Salary, £15. 15*s*. for Gaol and Bridewell.—Number of prisoners, Aug. 31, 1807, debtors 4, felons, &c. 6. Allowance, to debtors, nine pounds of bread, weekly; to felons and other criminal prisoners, three quartern loaves, *per* week.

REMARKS. The Gaoler's house, which is situate in the High-street, has no appearance of an appendage to a prison. The Gaol is behind it, to which the access is through a passage, leading immediately to the *Felons' Day-room*. This is about 16 feet square, and 10 feet high. It has a fire-place, with two iron-grated windows; and here (as there is no Chapel) Divine Service is performed! A place *set apart* for Divine Worship should seem to carry some respect with it. I wish the present were not a glaring exception. The attendance of debtors, I understand to be optional; and, indeed, it is not very likely that a *serious* debtor, who had his Prayer-book, and could read, would come into a room, where it was impossible he could be devout. What a close and motley mixture must

* This is a work (the dedication of a mple) not to be engaged in by any t such as have chaste or pure hearts, d a mind intimately acquainted and nversant with sacred things.

† See Letters XI. XII. XVII. XVIII.

‡ Psalm xxvi. 6.

§ Εις ιερον ου δει εκτρεπεσθαι, ου γαρ παραγον δει ποιεισθαι τον θεον (al. το θειον), t. Pythag. fig. 85, p. 70.

must it exhibit! Clergyman, gaoler, felons, misdemeanors—to say nothing of debtors (most of whom I suppose never attend), within a space of sixteen feet square, all upon one floor; no reading-desk, nor forms; to say nothing likewise of this House of Prayer's being made also the kitchen, day-room, and constant abode of an avowed den of thieves. In short, this is one of the worst constructed prisons in the kingdom.

Adjoining to the felons' day-room is another, about 14 feet square; in the flooring of which a trap-door is made, and through it a descent of 11 steps leads to their sleeping-room, the size of their day-room, having an arched roof, and two iron-grated windows. This last contains three bedsteads, for three persons each; to which straw-in-sacking only is allowed them to sleep on.

The *Dungeon*, or "Hole," formerly used for convicts under sentence of death, adjoins to the sleeping-room before-mentioned; and is 10 feet by 4 only, 6 feet high, with an oak bedstead, and straw bedding, as above.

The Keeper, however, assured me, that no prisoners were ever put there *now;* yet, why continue its furniture if never used? From what I thought, therefore, on seeing such a receptacle, I could not help wishing it had been *inaccessibly bricked up.*

The court-yard to this part of the Gaol is about 21 feet square. In very severe weather the prisoners are allowed two bushels of coals *per* week. For deserters there are assigned two sleeping-cells, which both together are 14 feet by 11, and 10 feet high, with straw only on the floor to sleep on; and also a day-room of 11 feet by 4 feet 6.

The sleeping-room for the lesser criminals is over the felons' day-room, and of the same size. The common court-yard above described is for the indiscriminate use of all.

The women felons have a court-yard, 28 feet 6 inches by 17 feet 6; and a day-room and sleeping-room adjoining to it on the ground floor, each about 13 feet by 10, with a bedstead.

The hospital, or infirmary-room has four good windows, and is 19 feet 6 by 12 feet 6; but the cieling is too confined, being only 7 feet 6 inches high. Here is likewise a small room for the nurse. The bedsteads throughout the whole Prison are of strong oak, 6 feet long by 5 feet wide; with no other bedding upon them but straw, put into what they call "Coarse Pickling."

Men debtors have a court-yard also, 53 feet by 26, and a day-room 30 feet by 14, with a fire-place. Their sleeping-room above is about 26 feet by 14 feet 6, and has four bedsteads, for two persons each.

At my summer visits the debtors complained to me of excessive heat, from a want of ventilation; the two small iron-grated apertures made to admit a thorough air being nearly stopped up on the outside. The County allows straw only, so that the debtors in general bring their own beds, or else the Keeper furnishes a single bed at 2*s.* 4*d.* *per* week, or if two sleep together, at 1*s.* 9*d.* each; and, for those who can afford it, there are two other rooms in the house at 3*s.* 6*d.* *per* week.

Women-debtors have a separate court-yard, 33 feet by 19; a day-room 21 feet by 16, with a fire-place; and over it their sleeping-room, nearly of the same size, with four bedsteads, for two each, like those for men debtors. They furnish their own bedding. The windows of this room formerly commanded a fine view of the country, which made it both pleasant and healthy; but, at my last visit, the wall of the court-yard had been so raised as to intercept the scenery.

Mops, brooms, pails, &c. are allowed to keep the prison clean. Convicts under sentence of transportation have not the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week. For the conveyance of one transport only to Woolwich, the Gaoler is paid £12; if more than one, £9. for each: and to Portsmouth, for each £12.

A Table of Rates and Fees, approved by the Magistrates, is hung up in the Prison, in which 2*s.* 6*d.* for *garnish* is absolutely *ordered* to be taken of every prisoner. It is to be hoped this respectable County will follow the general, and almost universal example of all others, and cause it to be abolished.

No allowance of money to prisoners on discharge is ordered, unless the Gaoler sees it needful; but when so, he

he informed me it is given by him and charged to the County.

No firing is here allowed, except to felons in very severe weather: nor any employment furnished by the County. Such debtors, however, as are of handicraft trades, and can procure it from without, are permitted to work, and receive all they earn.

There is a pump in every court-yard; but no bath, nor oven, which are much wanted. I found the whole of this ill-arranged Prison well supplied with water, and very clean. The Act for Preservation of Health, and clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up.

Huntingdon Bridewell. Gaoler, *William Nichols.* Salary, £28. from the County, and £2. from the Borough.—Chaplain (a new appointment, since my last visit in 1807), the Rev. *Daniel Williams.* Duty, Prayers and Sermon every Wednesday. Salary, £10.—Surgeon, Mr. *Desborough.*—Number of prisoners, August 31, 1807, *fourteen.* Allowance, eighteen pence *per* week, and half their earnings.

Remarks. This Prison would have been better situated on the rising ground at the back of it. The site on which it is built was the gift of his Grace the Duke of Manchester, at the edge of the common; its situation is low.

Here are four court-yards; two of them spacious and airy, and well supplied with water. On the ground floor are four work-rooms, two for men, the others for women: also a day-room or kitchen, and fire-places to each room. Above stairs are eight sleeping-rooms, four of each for men and women, with straw-in-sacking to sleep on, which is furnished by the Keeper; and two dark rooms, set apart for the solitary confinement of two prisoners in each. No infirmary, or other room appropriated to the sick.

The employment here consists in beating hemp, dressing flax, and spinning, and is furnished by the Keeper, who receives one half of the prisoners' earnings.

No Rules and Orders. Neither the Act for Preservation of Health, nor the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors hung up. The Prison clean.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly, James Neild.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

Nichols and Son, Printers, Red Lion Passage, Fleet Street.

Mr. Urban, *Shrewsbury, April* 19.

YOUR Miscellany being a general repository for what is curious, particularly for remains of Antiquity, I wish to consign the following to your Museum.

The first drawing represents the remains of St. Mary's Water-gate, Shrewsbury, which is the only gateway remaining here, though it appears there were formerly seven. Some of the Parliamentary army, under the command of Colonel Mytton, first entered the town at this gate, A. D. 1644; soon after which, the town surrendered to the forces of the Parliament.

The modern system of *improvement*, it seems, will leave us few remains of antient art; many of the venerable buildings which ornamented this antient town are lost to posterity, either by inattention to timely repair, or by *wanton innovation*.

Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, are tiles, or quarries, found in the floor of the fine old Church of St. Alkmond in this town, which was taken down in the year 1794. See your vol. LXVI. pp. 369, 370. *Fig.* 6, is a Hales-Owen tradesman's token, and the only one I have met with.

Yours, &c. D. Parkes.

Mr. Urban, *Uffculme, near Cullumpton, Oct.* 12.

IN the Register of Burials in the parish of Uffculme, Devon, which commenced in the year 1538, on vellum, and now in a state of perfect preservation; the entries of which, being in a masterly hand, in the office or secretary style, were made, most probably, not by the Clergyman, but by some person whose office it was to make such entries*; it appears, that in the year 1551 there was a very great mortality; and, towards the end of August and beginning of September the burials for several successive days were two, three, four, and five in a day (a number very far beyond the usual average).

In the margin opposite to those entries, in the same hand-writing, but much larger letters, as if to attract observation, is entered as follows:

"The hote Sickness, called *Stupgallant*."

Quere, What disease could be meant? I do not recollect to have met with, or heard of the name any where*.

In the same Register also occurs the following entry:

"Anno Dni 1558, April the first day, was John Pocke, gentle, christened and buried. Anno Phil. et Mar. 6."

As this man appears to have been christened and buried on the same day, is it not probable that he was either burnt, or executed as an heretick? Yours, &c.

John Nott, *Surgeon.*

Lincolnshire Monasteries.

Mr. Urban, *Oct.* 12.

BEING lately on business near Wragby, my curiosity led me to Bardney, merely for the sake of viewing the present state of the place where its famous Monastery stood; which was on a rising ground, about half a mile North of the Village (of Bardney). The ground is moated round by a deep ditch, which was faced with a strong brick wall: a small part, about 20 feet long and 3 high, only remains; and indeed this is the only remain whatever that is now to be seen, except the foundations, which seem to cover several acres, and are on the highest ground in the middle of the area, from which there is a fine view of Lincoln Cathedral, 10 miles distant. The site or area contains about 24 acres, is a piece of high, rich, grazing land, surrounded by fenny ground, and belongs to a grazier of the name of Bartholomew.

Here follow some notes, made by me lately, relating to

Greenfield, in Belleau parish, two miles North of Alford. Stood close by a wood, in a clay country; the area moated round; not the slightest remains of any part of the Abbey. A farm-house of plain brick walls remains near the site within the moat. The estate belongs to C. T. Wood, Esq.

Tupholm, eight miles East of Horn-castle.

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* On this subject, p. 913.

* The *Sweating Sickness* (now happily unknown in this country) was formerly of frequent recurrence; as may be seen in any of the old Historians. Edit.

castle. The Abbey stood in a rich grazing close, belonging to the Vyner family. A large stone side-wall of the Abbey Church remains, in which are three tiers of windows and a stone pulpit; the opposite side-wall has been down about 20 years. A strong stone farm-house stands close by, seemingly built out of the ruins of the Monastery. C.

(To be continued.)

LETTER LVI. ON PRISONS.

"Forsan miseros meliora sequentur.
VIRG.

Sambrook Court, Nov. 1.

THE following Letter is so copious and instructive, and so illustrative of the improvement in the structure of Prisons, as to excite a cordial hope, that now, (in the words of my motto) "perhaps, a better fate awaits on the afflicted."

J. C. LETTSOM.

IPSWICH, Suffolk, COUNTY GAOL and BRIDEWELL. Gaoler, *Samuel Johnson.* Salary, £200; and coals and candles for his own use. Fees and Garnish abolished.—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Lee.* Duty, Prayers on Wednesday; and on Sunday, Prayers and Sermon. Salary, £50.—Surgeon, Mr. *Stebbing.* Salary, £60. for prisoners of all descriptions.—Number of prisoners, Sept. 14, 1805, debtors, 20; felons, &c. 14; Bridewell prisoners, 5. —Allowance; *debtors*, each two pounds of beef *per* week, and on Sundays a pint of porter and a twopenny loaf. If very poor, and unable to support himself, he is allowed by the County, in addition, four loaves, each one pound and a half, and half a pound of cheese *per* week. Felons, one pound and a half of best bread *per day*, sent in from the baker in loaves of that weight; and three quarters of a pound of cheese weekly. I weighed the loaves, and found them both just in quantity, and of the best wheaten bread. N. B. Coals, mops, brooms, pails, and towels, are allowed by the County for the use of the prisoners.

REMARKS. The boundary wall of this Prison incloses about an acre and a half of ground, and is 20 feet high, with a sunk fence about 5 feet deep, 10 feet wide, and 12 feet distant from the open palisade fences of the different court-yards.

The turnkey's lodge is in front; and on the ground-floor is the day-room, and another, in which the irons for prisoners are deposited.

In the lodge are a warm and cold bath, with an oven to purify their clothes on being received.

Above-stairs are two reception-cells, where the prisoner is detained till examined by the Surgeon, previous to his admission into the interior. Also a room where the cleansed clothes are ticketed and hung up, and the County clothing put on; and close by is the turnkey's sleeping-room.

The lead roof above the lodge is the place for execution of criminals.

From the lodge extends an avenue of 98 feet by 18, which leads to the *Keeper's house*, in the *centre of the Prison*, and from which the several court-yards are completely inspected.

The Prison consists of four wings, to which are attached light, spacious, and airy courts of 75 feet by 45, and three smaller ones, about 44 feet square, in one of which is the engine-house, as a provision against fire.

The men-debtors have the use of two of the larger court-yards, having water-closets in them, and both hard and soft water are laid on. Upon the ground floor is their day-room, 22 feet by 14, with a fire-place, and utensils for frugal cookery, a pantry also for their provisions, and four work-rooms.

To the refractory debtors are appropriated one of the smaller courts and two working-cells of 8 feet by 6, and 10 feet high, on the ground floor.

The first and second stories have each 11 sleeping-cells; which are severally divided by lobbies, 46 feet long and 5 feet wide.

The women-debtors have a court-yard to themselves of the larger size, and separated from the men's by the avenue before noticed, as leading from the turnkey's lodge to the house of the Keeper. Their day-room is 14 feet by 8 feet 6 inches, is fitted up just like that for the men-debtors. Above this, on the first story, is a lobby, 46 feet by 5, leading to 10 sleeping-cells, five of them on one side for female debtors, and the rest, on the other side, for female convicts.

On the second story are 11 other sleeping-cells, exactly similar to the former, and divided by a lobby in the same manner; and all communi-

cation

tion between female debtors and male felons is most judiciously prented, by means of an iron-grated door thrown across the passage or lobby.

Each cell has two doors; the outer iron-grated, and the inner of wood, opening into the lobby. They are 11 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6, and about 9 feet 6 inches high; lighted and ventilated by an iron-grated and glazed sash-window, 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 4, and by an aperture also near the door, of 15 inches by 3; all like fitted up with a wooden bedstead, flock mattress, two sheets, two blankets, a bolster, and coverlet, which are provided at the County expence.

Every debtor has a single bed, and all are supplied with fuel, both winter and summer, to cook their provisions, and with a cupboard, numbered as the sleeping-room, under lock and key to secure them. Each debtor has permission also to purchase one quart of strong beer *per* day, but no more.

Male felons, before trial, have a day-room, 14 feet square, fitted up like those of the debtors, for cookery and every other accommodation. They too have a court-yard, with excellent pump-water laid on, a sewer, which is a water-closet, and seven working-cells. Above these, on the first story, are 10 sleeping-cells, divided by a lobby, 46 feet long and 8 feet wide; and on the second story are 11 other cells, divided in the same manner.

The female felons previous to trial have a day-room, 14 feet by 8 feet 6; fitted up for cookery, in the same manner as the men's. Their sleeping-cells also are exactly similar to the preceding; and they have a court-yard, like that appropriated to the male felons.

Convicts for transportation have their day-room of the same dimensions with that last-mentioned; and on the upper story are 11 sleeping-cells for their class, who have also the use of a separate court-yard.

Convicts sentenced to imprisonment have likewise a court-yard, a day-room of 14 feet square, on the ground floor, seven work-cells; and on the first story, 11 sleeping-cells, circumstanced and accommodated in all respects like those already described.

The Chapel of this excellent Prison is in the centre of the Gaoler's house, up one pair of stairs, and distinguishable by a turret top and an alarm bell. The former was somewhat open for better ventilation, but being found to admit too much air, the sides have been nearly canvassed up. This very neat structure is well contrived, and easy of access from the several lobbies. The prisoners during Divine Service are seated according to their respective classes. The sexes, by means of several partitions, are kept out of sight of each other, but all in full view of their Minister and Keeper.

On this first story there are also three bed-chambers for the Gaoler; and on the second story, four neat infirmary-rooms, 19 feet square, with fire-places, sash-windows iron-grated, water-closets, &c.; and above them is the lead flat of the building, set apart to the use of convalescents, for the benefit of air and exercise.

The infirmaries have iron-framed, latticed, wooden bedsteads, with a mattress to each, two blankets, two sheets, and a coverlet; and the sick are well supplied with suitable food, and wine if necessary, at the discretion of the Surgeon.

At a meeting of the trustees of Mr. *John Pemberton*'s Charity, on the 17th of July, 1780, it was ordered:

"That the Treasurer should provide, as the Trustees shall see fit, for the debtors imprisoned in any of the jails in the county of Suffolk (either for *their relief* therein, by a proportion of bread, meat, and beer, as he shall think necessary, or for the *delivering them* out of prison), until the Treasurer shall receive further orders. Nevertheless, such debtors in *Ipswich Gaol* as do not regularly attend Divine Service, unless prevented by sickness, or some reasonable cause, to be allowed of by the Chaplain, and behave decently and reverently, shall not have any benefit or allowance from the Charity."

"*Trustees*, Geo. Drury,
Ph. B. Broke,
Lott. Knight,
Edw. Hasell."

The County, hitherto, has provided no employment; but those prisoners who can procure it from without, are allowed

allowed to work, and receive the whole profit of their earnings.

The court-yards of this Gaol are open daily at six, and shut at nine in summer; during winter they open at seven, and shut at six. Visitors are allowed from ten to four o'clock every day, Sundays excepted, when no visitor is permitted, except by an order from some Magistrate.

The visiting Magistrates frequently attend their important charge, and have their committee-room in the Keeper's house; the windows of which room, and of the keeper's kitchen and parlour, are so placed as to command the several court-yards.

Recapitulation of the various departments of the Gaol:

Four wings; court-yards, 11; day-rooms, 7; work-cells, 27; sleeping-cells, 86; solitary-cells, 2.

The County dresses, before conviction, are red and grey striped duffel; and after conviction, blue and yellow, for distinction.

The Statute for Preserving Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are conspicuously hung up. The Gaol, well supplied with water, is kept very neat and clean.

The gentlemen of this county, both here and at Bury, have erected a striking monument of their humane attention to the health of the wretched, and the morals of the prisoner.

Ipswich House of Correction. Keeper, *George Clubbe.* Salary, £42, and coals, candles, soap, mops, brooms, and pails, for the use of the Prison. Fees, none.—Surgeon, Mr. *Stebbing.* Salary, included in the £60. noticed under "*County* Gaol."—Number of prisoners, Sept. 14, 1805, three.—Allowance, a pound and half of bread *per* day, sent in loaves of that weight from the baker's; which, upon weighing, I found to be just. They have also what they can earn by spinning.

Remarks. This Prison stands near the County Gaol, in an airy situation, and is surrounded by a boundary-wall, 17 feet high, with an inside sunk fence, 2 feet 6 inches deep, and 7 feet wide.

On the ground floor of the Keeper's house are the visiting Magistrates' room, the Keeper's parlour and kitchen, which command a view of the three different court-yards, each of 60 feet by 30, and inclosed by open palisades. Here is a forcing-pump, for supplying the prison; and soft water is also laid on from the main to the Keeper's kitchen.

On the left side of the ground floor is a day-room, 18 feet by 10, with fire-place and glazed windows; and five cells for the women, which open into a lobby, 24 feet by 5, well ventilated.

Above these are five other cells, of the same size, with a lobby and three infirmary-rooms, 14 feet by 11, with glazed windows, fire-places, and boarded floors. Near the infirmary-room is a lead flat for the convalescents to walk on, for the benefit of air.

On the right hand of the ground floor is another day-room for the men, with cells and lobbies; sick-rooms and other accommodations of the same size and nature as those on the women's side.

In the first floor of the Keeper's house is the Chapel, 20 feet by 16, into which the respective lobbies open, and all classes are seated on the benches, and in sight of each other.

The court-yards are all on an inclined plane, with brick gutters. Water is judiciously conveyed through the sewers, and the courts are always clean.

Each cell in this prison is 10 feet by 7, and 9 feet 6 inches high, with arched roofs, and ventilated by an iron-grated and glazed window, 3 feet 3 inches by 3 feet. They have iron bedsteads, straw beds in sacking, two blankets, and a coverlet, and are furnished with spinning-wheels.

The ventilation of the cells might be improved by a circular aperture over the door of 6 inches diameter; or in any other suitable situation, 10 inches by 2. Each door has now an opening of 6 inches by 4.

Clean linen, once a week, is provided by the County. Here are no Rules and Orders hung up, nor the Act for Preserving Health, and Clauses against Spirituous Liquors. The prison is kept very clean.

Ipswich Town and Borough Gaol. Gaoler, *William Brame.* Salary, £50.; also two chaldron and a half of coals, and eight dozen pounds of candles. Fees, debtors, on discharge, 6*s.* 8*d.* Felons pay no fees, and garnish is *now* abolished.—Chaplain (a *recent* appointment), Rev.

Rev. *William Howorth.* Duty, Sunday, Prayers and Sermon. Salary, £30.—Surgeon, Mr. *Sechamp.* Salary, none; makes a bill.—Number of prisoners, Sept. 14, 1805, debtors, 4, felons, &c. 6.—Allowance to debtors, poor and unable to support themselves, one pound and a half of bread *per* day; and from *Pemberton's Charity*, a two-penny loaf, one shilling's worth of meat, and a pint of strong beer on a Sunday, once in three weeks. To felons, &c. one pound and a half of best wheaten bread, and one penny in money *per* day.

Remarks. This Gaol is situated in St. Matthew's-street, and since my visits in 1801 and 1805, is become so improved, that I can *now* give some account of it with pleasure.

The Gaoler's house fronts the street; and in it are rooms for master's-side debtors, to which he furnishes beds at 2*s.* *per* week. Behind the house is the debtors' court-yard, 90 feet by 27, with a gravel-walk; and at the end of it is a small area, in which to converse with their friends.

Women-debtors have separate apartments. The infirmary-room 17 feet by 12, and 7 feet 9 inches high, with a fire-place and glazed window.

Common-side debtors have a day-room, 16 feet square, with a fire-place; and also four rooms above-stairs, to which the Corporation furnishes bedsteads and bedding.

Men and women felons have each their separate ward, distinct and apart one from the other, with an airy court-yard to each; in which the sewers are judiciously placed, and not offensive.

Their sleeping-rooms are well ventilated, and furnished by the Corporation with bedsteads, bed, two blankets, two sheets, clean once a month, and a coverlet to each. They are obliged to make their beds, and sweep their wards every morning, before they receive their allowance of bread.

At the West end of the prison is a little neat Chapel, 22 feet by 18, where the prisoners are properly seated in their respective classes, but in sight of each other during Divine Service.

At my visits, some of them were employed in cutting skewers, at 2*s.* a thousand; others spinning, or making garters. They have all they earn, and the considerate Magistrates allow fire, soap, and towels for their use.

Debtors are confined here upon writs of *Capias*, issuing out of the *Court of Small Pleas*, holden for the Town and Borough every fortnight, on a Monday. No debtor in execution confined in this gaol had ever reaped the benefit of the *Lords' Act*, until the 30th of December, 1805, when Mr. Pulham, a very worthy and respectable solicitor at Woodbridge, obtained the *sixpences* for them at his own expence, after an application had been made by him to the Court of King's Bench, for a Mandamus to have them allowed.

Every debtor here is permitted to purchase one quart of strong beer *per* day, but not more.

The felons, male and female, have *now* separate wards, and cannot communicate with each other. Each have a court-yard, with proper drains. All the cells are well ventilated, and furnished by the Corporation with beds, two blankets, two sheets, and a coverlet; they have clean sheets once a month, or oftener, if necessary. The Keeper receives for the conveyance of transports, 1*s.* *per* mile. Firing is allowed to both debtors and felons. The gaol is well supplied with water; it is visited occasionally by the worthy Magistrates, and kept clean.

Ipswich. The Old Town and Borough Bridewell. Keeper, *John Peak.* Salary, £17. and coals and candles.—Chaplain, none; nor any instruction, religious or moral.—Surgeon, Mr. *Stebbing.*—Prisoners, October 13, 1801, seven. Allowance, one pound and a half of bread *per* day, and whatever they can earn by spinning.

Remarks. The men's court-yard is about 33 feet square. Work-room, 17 feet by 14. Lodging-room, 19 feet by 13, and two upper rooms; one of them 30 feet by 14, the other 17 feet by 14, supplied with straw-in-sacking beds, one blanket, and two coverlets.

The women's court-yard is 42 feet by 15. Their day-room and work-room are each 15 feet by 12. Lodging-room, 18 feet by 15, like that of the men. Also two upper rooms, of the same dimensions as the foregoing. Two of the women were employed in

in spinning. Three of the men out of *five* were also at work; two of the number were sentenced to two years imprisonment. The whole prison very dirty, though said to be white-washed once a year. This wretched prison is now abolished, and tenements built there.

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

Mr. URBAN, *Bath, Oct.* 8.

IN the Critical Review for October last, p. 159, there are some well-written remarks on the following work, *viz.* "Observations on Aneurism, and some Diseases of the Arterial System, by George Freer, Surgeon to the General Hospital at Birmingham," 4to.

The Reviewer pays a just and well-merited compliment to Mr. Freer, in consequence of his having "performed the operation of tying the Iliac Artery, for the cure of Femoral Aneurism, the first time that, he believes, it ever was performed with complete success. The operation was performed on the 4th of October, 1806, with one ligature and a common double knot on the external Iliac Artery. On the 19th of October the Ligature came away, and the Patient perfectly recovered." "This," the Reviewer very properly adds, "is a triumphant example of the skill and the science of British Surgery; and we cordially sympathize in the exulting remark of one of Mr. Freer's correspondents, 'that the capability of performing the most complex and difficult operations of Surgery is not now confined to the Metropolis and other great Schools of Surgery'."

I also, Mr. Urban, do most cordially sympathize in this justly-exulting remark, as it illustrates one which I ventured to make many years since, in the twenty-ninth number of the Medical Spectator, vol. II. p. 40, "that the healing art, in all its branches, is administered, in every part of his Majesty's dominions, in a manner much superior to the practice of any other country in the world." But this is not all; I exult also, because I find in the same Review of this valuable work that Mr. Freer has adopted a doctrine respecting the Arterial System, and a proposal for the cure of Femoral Aneurism, which I first promulgated in the seventh number of the same work, vol. I. p. 104. The Reviewer tells us that, "when incision is impracticable or improper, either on account of the diseased state of the artery, or of other causes, Mr. F. follows the method of Guattani, and recommends compression; and, to illustrate its usefulness, he has copied some of the cases of that celebrated Surgeon, and given some of his own. As a specimen of his manner, we insert this method of cure, and his reasoning upon it, as they are included in the following remarks:" p. 12.

"Compression may be applied either on the Aneurismal Tumor itself, or upon the sound artery above it. *In those cases where the pressure has been hitherto applied, it has been upon the Tumor itself*; and though this mode of application has frequently been attended with success, it is by no means so likely to answer the intention of uniting the sides of the vessel as when used on the sound part of the artery. From the result of those experiments I made on the radial artery of a horse, I should recommend the pressure to be made upon the extremities, either by the assistance of Scuffio's instrument, which is copied from Platner's Surgery, and given here in the margin, or in the following manner. First, place a bandage, moderately tight, from one extremity of the limb to the other; then place a pad upon the artery, a few inches *above* the tumor, that you may have a greater probability of its being in a sound state; then with a common tourniquet surrounding the limb, let the screw be fixed upon the pad, having previously secured the whole limb from the action of the instrument, by a piece of board wider than the limb itself, by which means the artery only will be compressed when the screw is tightened; the tourniquet should then be twisted till the pulsation in the tumor ceases. In a few hours, as by experiment upon the horse, the limb will become œdematous and swelled; the tourniquet may then be removed, and no stronger pressure will be required than what can easily be made with the pad and roller. The irritation produced by this mode of pressure excites that degree of inflammation of the artery, which deposits coagulable lymph in the coats of the vessel, thickens them, diminishes the cavity, and eventually obstructs the passage of the blood. Such are the practical advantages of compression; and when any portion of vital power remains, I know of no exceptions to its use."

On the above extract the Critical Reviewer makes the following judicious remark: "On the body of the Aneurism itself, compression can seldom,

LETTER LVII. ON PRISONS.

"Ingenium res adversæ nudare solent,
celare secundæ*." HOR.

Sambrook Court, Dec. 9, 1808.

IN perusing the subsequent excellent Letter, the painful reflection is excited, from perceiving in the Bridewell of Hertford, as well as in many other Prisons, that no attention is devoted to the promotion of habits of industry in the prisoners.

It is well known, that, after the dissolution of Monasteries under Henry VIII. multitudes who lived by mendicity on the alms of the Clergy, became burthensome and dangerous to the community, in spite of the infliction of the most severe punishments; until the famous Act of the 43d of Queen Elizabeth was passed; which directed the supply of materials, and the employment of labour, as best calculated to prevent idleness, indigence, and mendicity; and happily it succeeded.

It would occasion too extensive a narrative, to trace the various alterations of, and additions to, this celebrated Act; most of which have proved subversive of the advantages derived from the original plan, which the great legislators of this Queen's reign had wisely adopted. It is, indeed, lamentable, that, under the bad policy of some of our laws, this object is never recognized. How often has Humanity raised her voice against the cruelty of empowering one man to enclose in a dungeon an unfortunate fellow-citizen; who, born in a country boasting of its general freedom, from its laws, finds none to secure his liberty! How often has the impolicy of excluding from the exercise of industry, individuals, whose labour might retrieve misfortune, and repay obligation, been in vain repeated †!

Scarcely ever have I entered a prison, without meeting with persons, whose talents and qualifications, unfettered by restraint, might be profitable to their families, and sometimes even honourable to their country ‡. In the damp, dreary Clink, or Marshalsea Prison §, I saw an Artist, who now exercises his useful powers much to the gratification of the publick. On visiting the Surrey County Gaol with my friend Neild, and accompanied by Sir Thomas Turton, I found another ingenious person, whose talents are now exercised to amuse and instruct the community. That learned Naturalist, on whose judgment the value of Sir Ashton Lever's museum was determined by Parliament, languished in the King's Bench Prison, and long supported his family by the efforts of his genius, and the exercise of his talents ‖; though compelled, at length, to raise that support, by painting ornamental designs for ladies' thread-papers! verifying, indeed, the remark of Bouhours, "Les malheureux, qui ont de l'esprit,

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* In adversity those talents are called forth, which are concealed by prosperity.

† See Dr. Johnson's Remarks in the Idler, No. 38.

‡ Perhaps the great North American Empire may trace its origin equally from persecution and the issues of the prisons; and New South Wales may lay its claim almost exclusively from the latter. I spent an evening, which agreeably continued till two o'clock in the morning, with the late General Oglethorp, when this veteran was in the 96th year of his age, who told me that he planted Georgia, chiefly from the prisons.

§ Described in the Gent. Mag. vol. 1807, LXXVII. p. 211.

‖ I hope it will not be deemed improper to add here, that soon after this ingenious person was liberated, and appointed to a respectable station under Government, he died, and left a widow and six children unprovided. A small fund, was however raised for their support; and they are now comfortably situated. The two eldest sons have risen to Lieutenants in the Navy; and lately one of these was appointed the Governor of a West India Island.

trouvent

trouvent des ressources en eux-mêmes *. J. C. Lettsom.

Hertford. The County Gaol and Bridewell. Gaoler, *Charlotte Wilson*, widow of the late Keeper. Salary, £180; and for the Bridewell, £24. Fees, felons and debtors, 15*s.* 4*d.*; besides which, the Under Sheriff demands 6*s.* 8*d.* of each debtor, for his *liberate!* Fees for Bridewell prisoners, 4*s.* 6*d.* No table. For the conveyance of transports, one shilling *per* mile. Garnish, prohibited. On a painted board is affixed up, "No Garnish to be taken." See Remarks. —Chaplain, Rev. *James Moore.* Duty, Prayers and Sermon every Sunday. Salary, £40.—Surgeon, Mr. *Bradley.* Salary, £20.—Number of prisoners, Sept. 20, 1808, debtors, 9; felons and Bridewell, 17.—Allowance, to debtors, none whatever; to felons and other criminal prisoners, one pound and half of bread daily, cut *from the Gaoler's loaf.* Convicts under sentence of transportation have the King's allowance for their support, 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week.

Remarks. This Gaol, which is also the County Bridewell, is situated just out of the town, and surrounded by a boundary-wall, 15 feet high; which, being at a considerable distance from the building, admits a free circulation of air; and the Gaoler has within it a convenient garden.

For men and women debtors, here is only one court-yard, 60 feet by 36. Their infirmary-room is on the ground-floor, spacious and lofty, but destitute of furniture; and they have no day-room.

For common-side debtors, there are 10 sleeping-rooms of 16 feet 8 inches by 11 feet 7, which are *Free Wards:* but the County allows neither bedding nor straw; so that if a debtor cannot provide himself with a bed, he must sleep on the bare boards.

The lobby which leads to these rooms is only *four feet wide;* and the pillars being square, and of brick, make them both dark and close. The door-ways are but *twenty-two inches wide;* so that no crib-bedsteads can be introduced into them! There are two other rooms of 12 feet by 10, which are furnished for such as can pay seven shillings each, *per* week, and two sleep together. No firing is allowed them.

The men felons have two court-yards, each of them about the same size as that for the debtors. One of them, called "The Further-yard," has six cells, and a day-room about 15 feet square, on the ground-floor. The other, called "The Middle-yard," has eight sleeping-cells, built over those in the Further-yard; and, on the ground-floor, is a large day-room, and an infirmary. The felons' cells are about 16 feet 8 inches each, by 11 feet 7; with straw on the floor, scantily supplied by the Gaoler out of her salary.

☞ In the debtors' and felons' courts are boards fixed up, on which, as I before remarked, is painted, "No garnish to be taken in this Gaol." But, at my visit in 1808, the word no was obliterated in the felons' court-yard, and a gallon of beer exacted, as garnish, from every new-comer.

The court for women felons is about 45 feet by 16, with a sewer in it, and two sleeping-cells, each 16 feet 6 inches by 12 feet; both of which have fire-places and grated windows towards the court. Two sleep in a cell upon the floor, which has a partition, about four inches high, to keep the straw together; and that is the only bedding allowed them.

The Bridewell men's court is about 33 yards by 24, and has 12 sleeping-cells on the ground-floor, with as many above them, all opening to the court-yard. The aperture over each door has sloping boards before it, to prevent their view of the court; and, at the further end of each cell, is a casement. Twelve of these cells have a fire-place.

The Bridewell womens' court is about the same size as that of the men, with a gravel-walk surrounding a grass-plat. They have eight sleeping-cells, four at each end of the court, on the ground-floor, with a fire-place in each cell.

There is a pump in these, and in every other court-yard of this Gaol. The rooms for the Bridewell prisoners have vaulted roofs, and are 12 feet each, by 9.

The men's Bridewell has a spacious and

* Unfortunate persons of genius find resources within themselves.

and lofty room on the ground-floor, paved, like the others, with flagstones, and intended as an infirmary; with a small room for the Surgeon; but it has never been used as such. It has no furniture, and is occupied by vagrants, who sleep upon loose straw, laid on the floor. The warm and cold baths adjoin to it; of which the former has never been used, and the latter only twice! Between the two baths is an oven, to purify infected cloaths.

Here is also a small court-yard, and a convenient sewer, intended for the sick.

The Chapel of this Gaol has no cupola, and is very close, and sometimes offensive. The debtors appeared to me not only negligent in their attendance on Divine Service, but even frequently interrupted it by misbehaviour. At my visit in 1803, only three of them, out of eleven, were present; and, in 1804, eight only attended Chapel out of the twelve.

Of the 12 House of Correction prisoners, at one of my visits (in 1804), four were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, without any employment whatever, although they much wished for it; and bitterly did they complain, "At not being allowed more than one hour of enlargement, out of the twenty-four, to get a little fresh air; at no firing being supplied to them in cold weather; and at being denied the indulgence of either soap or towels, for personal, or prison, cleanliness." At my visit also in 1808, I found four other prisoners of the above description, committed for a twelvemonth; and the whole number, as before, destitute of the blessings of that employment, which they earnestly desired to obtain. Their cells are not now offensive as heretofore; because they are permitted the use of a court-yard, and the loathsome pails or buckets seldom required. This indulgence, the Keeper's son informed me, was in consequence of my remarks at former visits.

It has been exceedingly painful for me to observe, though Truth and the duty of Humanity call me to it, that those prisoners committed to the Felons' Gaol (and some of them even for comparatively trivial offences, and before a trial) are here immediately put in irons, and at night are pinioned (two together) down to the flooring of their cells, by a ponderous chain passed through the main link of their fetters, and to a strong iron staple; "and with this additional aggravation of their daily misery, are left to pass the hours destined by Nature to ease and refreshment, upon loose straw only, scattered on the floor. A man may thus suffer six months imprisonment, under the bare suspicion of a crime, from which, at the end of that dreary term, his country may perhaps honourably acquit him."

I saw no county furniture here, either in the infirmaries, or in any part of the Prison, except one rug in the felons' gaol, one in the men's bridewell, and one in the women's bridewell: neither is any county clothing allowed to the prisoners.

Mr. Wilson, the widowed Keeper's son, who occasionally assists his mother in her arduous task, is a farmer in the neighbourhood of the Gaol; and he told me, that if a chaff-cutting machine were provided, and a shed erected over it, he could keep the prisoners constantly employed.

But no employment is now regularly furnished. The County did heretofore attempt to establish a manufactory; but the expence having been found to exceed the prisoners' earnings, it was soon discontinued. That employment, however, (under due regulations and a patient superintendance) may be rendered productive, has been already and amply evinced at *Dorchester*, *Gloucester*, &c.; and it will be so elsewhere, in various other prisons, noticed in the cource of my Prison Remarks.

On this head, our Legislature has not been inattentive. By the 14th of Elizabeth, c. 5; and the 12th Geo. II. it is enacted, that, "Prisoners shall be provided for out of the general County Rate, &c." By the 19th Cha. II. and 12th Geo. II. c. 29. "Justices, in their Sessions, may provide a stock of materials for setting the poor to work, &c." By the last-mentioned Statute, c. 29, "Justices, in their Quarter-sessions, have power and authority to make one general rate, or assessment, as they, in their discretion, shall think necessary to answer all and every purpose of the above-recited Acts." Now, as habits

bits of industry when once lost are not easily regained, it is therefore to be hoped, that the considerate and conscientious Magistrates, to whom so important a charge is consigned, will avail themselves of their powers. The salutary purpose of the law is to reform the manners of the people, when unhappily depraved, and restore them as better members to society. In this very interesting view, and under the many privations of a Gaol, it would be an act of the greatest humanity, so to encourage industry, as that the hapless prisoners might be excited and enabled, by his own exertions, to render life more comfortable to himself, more safe to others, and at the same time essentially beneficial to his country.

It has always struck me, that wherever the *Bread Allowance* to prisoners is not judiciously distributed in distinct loaves, but cut from the Gaoler's or Keeper's loaf (as is the case both here, and other Prisons of this county of Hertford), there ought to be weights and scales provided, and kept apart for that purpose only; in order that the prisoners may always see that their respective doles are fairly and fully dealt out to them. The complaints which have occurred upon this subject may thus be effectually prevented in future.

I found the Gaol much cleaner than at my former visits; and straw being much cheaper, a more liberal supply has been issued, which is changed once in six weeks.

There is still, however, a want of regularity and cleanliness in the management of the present Gaol. The Keeper's house commands but a very small part of it. Uncovered pails, or buckets, are most loathsomely made to serve the purpose of sewers. Here are no Rules and Orders. The Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are hung up; but the Act for Preserving the Health of Prisoners is omitted.

Yours truly, JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom.

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LETTER LVIII. ON PRISONS.

"Labour has been represented as the punishment of sin; but it also operates as the preservative of innocence*."

Sambrook Court, March 6.

IT has been the opinion of the wisest and best of men, that the time which is employed in labour is so much deducted from the empire of the passions; and that, while the faculties of the mind and the body are occupied in industrious pursuits, the sensual and malevolent passions are proportionally subdued. But the Managers of the Town Gaol of Leicester seem to have acted upon principles so diametrically opposite to the general sense of mankind, respecting the effects of labour compared to those of idleness, as to set reason and experience at defiance, by inflicting a penalty on every effort of industry!

The Corporation of Leicester consists of a Mayor, Recorder, 24 Aldermen, 48 Common Council-men, two Chamberlains, a Steward, Bailiff, Solicitor, and Town-clerk; and the annual commitment of prisoners to the Town Gaol is nearly 200. From the subsequent recital of Mr. Neild, that some individual of this Corporation of 80 public officers may be animated to useful exertion, is the object of this appeal, by J. C. LETTSOM.

LEICESTER. THE COUNTY GAOL. Gaoler, *John Simons*. Salary, £130. out of which he allows every prisoner a quart of table-beer *per* day. Fees, 13*s*. 4*d*. and to the turnkey 2*s*.; besides which, the Under-sheriff demands a fee of 6*s*. 8*d*. for his *liberate!* Conveyance of transports, £8. each to Portsmouth; £7. to Woolwich. Garnish, abolished.—Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Anderson*. Duty, Prayers four days in the week; Sermon on Sunday. Salary, £60.—Surgeon, Mr. *Maule*. Salary, £15. for debtors and felons.—Number of prisoners; July 30, 1807, debtors, 11; felons, &c. 8. Allowance, one pound six ounces of bread, sent from the baker's every other day, in loaves of two pounds twelve ounces each; and one quart of small-beer daily.

REMARKS. This County Gaol looks as it should do: it has a prison-like appearance. The ingenious Architect, Mr. *Moneypenny*, has shewn his knowledge of grand design, bordering on the terrific.

The noble stone face of the building extends 120 feet in front of the street; and near to it is the Free School. The Gaoler's house is at one corner; and the turnkey's lodge, which adjoins it, leads both to the men felons' court-yard, and likewise, by a passage, to that of the debtors. It was first inhabited in 1793; and has four airy court-yards, with water in all, and a day-room to each. The court for debtors is 74 feet by 32, and the day-room 29 feet by 13 feet 6 inches. For those on the master's side there are 10 rooms, to which the Keeper furnishes beds, at 2*s*. 4*d*. *per* week for a single bed; and if two sleep together, 1*s*. 6*d*. a week each. Common-side debtors have a free ward, with 10 good-sized sleeping-rooms over the men felons cells, to which they furnish their own beds. One room is set apart for an infirmary, 30 feet by 16. with opposite windows, and a fire-place.

The men felons' court-yard is 59 feet by 30, with a day, or common mess-room, 23 feet by 13, which has a fire-place, a large table, and benches to sit on. They have also four sleeping-cells on the ground-floor, each 8 feet by 4 feet 11 inches. One cell of double the size for convicts under sentence of death, which is likewise occasionally used for refractory prisoners; and at the back of these, and separated

* Murray's Inquiries, Historical and Moral, respecting the Character of Nations, and the Progress of Society.

separated by a narrow passage, are five other cells, of equal dimensions.

One side of the court-yard is occupied by a room which has a cold-bath, and another adjoining, for prisoners to undress, in which is a boiler for warm water.

Behind these buildings, there is another court-yard for less atrocious felons, 38 feet square; a day, or mess-room (fitted-up as above) 18 feet 4 inches by 11 feet 9; an infirmary-room 16 feet square over it; and on the ground-floor are five sleeping-cells, exactly similar to those already mentioned.

Women felons have a court-yard, a day-room, an infirmary, and three sleeping-cells; another room having a cold-bath, and one adjoining it, with a boiler, like those before-described.

The Chapel is a square building in the centre of the Prison, and has at each corner a door of entrance for the respective classes, who are seated in the area, separated from each other by partitions six feet six inches high.

Over the rooms which contain the baths are the two spacious *infirmaries*, 30 feet each by 16, with large and opposite casement windows, and fire-places. These rooms open into the gallery of the Chapel, which is partitioned off for the sick. The Chapel is open to the top, with a large sky-light, and fan sash windows.

The cells of this Gaol have boarded floors, with arched roofs, and are fitted up with three mats and two blankets each. The doorways, being only 22 inches wide, are both too narrow to admit the introduction of a bedstead, and too few in number for so populous a prison; so that two prisoners are generally locked up in each cell, affording a space of two feet five inches only for each prisoner.

The court-yards here are well supplied with water, and the sewers not offensive. The attentive Keeper appears also to be humane; and the Prison is as clean as its ill construction will admit. It is much to be regretted, however, that the plan originally proposed by the able Architect was not adopted. There would then have been *no cells on the ground-floor;* which are incommodious, unhealthy, and insecure.

Those prisoners who work receive all their earnings, but no county allowance of bread, It has always given me pleasure to find some of them weaving stockings, others making shoes, &c.

Formerly, there used to be an annual collection for the prisoners, by a kind of voluntary brief. The gentlemen of the Grand Jury recommended it to the Clergy, who promoted the good work in their respective parishes. A table was kept of the sum received from each parish; a list of debtors cloathed, or discharged; and an account of the expenditure of the remainder in feeding and warming all the prisoners during the inclement season. The collection in 1774 amounted to £74. In 1779, only to £12. 5*s*. 6*d*. In 1780, to £6. 1*s*. 9*d*. and in 1781, to £3. 18*s*. Mr. Gregory informed me by letter, dated August 28, 1803, that no collection had been made for several years; that from 1795 to 1803, the whole amount was but £5. 1*s*. 6*d*. and that the balance then remaining in his hands was £32. 6*s*. 11*d*.

No firing is allowed by the County: neither soap nor towels for prison cleanliness. No Rules and Orders. Here, as in too many other Gaols, is an *useless tub;* and two cold-baths that are never used.

The prohibitory Clauses against the use of Spirituous Liquors are painted on the same board as the Table of Fees. But the Act for Preserving the Health of the Prisoners was not hung up.

Leicester Town Gaol.

Gaoler, *Welborn Owston.* Salary £37. 10*s*. Fees, Debtors, 15*s*. 4*d*. Besides which, the Under-sheriff demands 6*s*. 8*d*. for his *liberate!* Felons 13*s*. 4*d*. Bridewell Prisoners 2*s*. 6*d*. and for the conveyance of transports £10. each. Garnish abolished. Chaplain, Rev. *Thomas Robinson*; Salary, £10. Duty, Prayers and Sermon once a month. Surgeon, Mr. *Maule.* Makes a bill. Number of prisoners 1807, July 30, Debtors, 2; Felons, &c. 12. Allowance the same as at the County Gaol.

Remarks. This Gaol was built in 1793, and has, on each side, a narrow slip of ground, partitioned off by open iron palisades, and divided into court-yards for the different classes of prisoners.

The court-yard for debtors is 32 feet by 16, with a day-room 13 feet by

by 12; and up-stairs are eight lodging-rooms, to which, if the debtor brings his own bed, he pays nothing. The Keeper, if he furnishes a single bed, is paid 2*s.* 4*d.* *per* week; and if two sleep together, 1*s.* 9*d.* each. One room is set apart for the sick.

The Chapel, very small, is in the centre of the Prison; and the prisoners are not properly separated.

The felons' court-yard, on the debtor-side of the Gaol, is 40 feet by 10; and to prevent conversation with the debtors, a vacant space of 8 feet wide is left, between the palisades of the two court-yards.

The other narrow slip is divided into three court-yards, by similar iron palisades. The *bottom court*, of 34 feet by 20, is for women felons, and has a day-room and five sleeping-cells. The *middle court* for deserters 21 feet square, and has three sleeping-cells: and the upper, or *top court*, is for men felons, 41 feet by 21; with six sleeping-cells.

Each cell is 12 feet 6 by 6 feet 2, and 9 feet 4 inches high to the crown of the arch; and has a crib bedstead, and two sedge mats to sleep on. At my visit 1803, each had a cast-iron privy in it; but in 1805, I had the pleasure to find they were removed, and sewers distributed in all the court-yards. These cells are all on the ground-floor; but above-stairs there are sleeping-rooms for those who can pay for beds. One room is set apart for an infirmary to this side of the Gaol. Such care and humane attention towards the sick is ever laudable, and a bounden duty: but the *healthy*, and the *diligent*, also, do surely require some consideration.

Instead of encouraging industry, however, the very disposition to it seems *here* to be most unaccountably repressed by a curious mode of penalty. *Every prisoner, debtor or criminal, that procures himself the means of labour in the Town Gaol of Leicester, has not only his County allowance of bread stopped, and withheld, but he is even obliged to pay the Gaoler one shilling, and sometimes two shillings per week, for permission to work!* A novelty of this kind is undoubtedly severe; and such as I have never before met with in my wide perambulation of the Gaols.

A bath is here provided, which they informed me had never been used, and the Prison seldom visited. No Rules and Orders. There was formerly a Table of Fees, but none has been visible in the Prison these many years. Neither the Act for Preservation of Health nor the Clauses against Spirituous Liquors, are painted on a board and hung up.

The Prison is clean, and water plentifully supplied. Yearly commitments to this Gaol; August 1800 to August 1801, 163; August 1801 to August 1802, 194; August 1802 to August 1803, 193.

Leicester County Bridewell.

Gaoler, *William Phillips*, heretofore *Daniel Lambert*. Salary, £52. 10*s.* He is also allowed mops, brooms, pails, soap, and every requisite for prison cleanliness. Chaplain, none: but at my last visit, the Keeper told me his prisoners regularly attended prayers three times a week, and prayers and sermon on Sundays, in the County Gaol Chapel. Surgeon, Mr. *Maule*. He makes a bill. Number of prisoners July 30, 1807, 17. Allowance, the same as at the County Gaol.

Remarks. This new Bridewell, first inhabited in 1804, is situate in Freeschool-lane, and adjoins to the County Gaol. In the wall of which there is a door of communication for the prisoners, who go thither to Chapel, where the sexes are placed in separate divisions, and out of sight of each other.

Here are two court-yards, for the men and women; and to each a day-room. In the centre of the mens court is a small detached building, which contains a bath: their 9 sleeping-cells are on the ground-floor, each of eight feet by five, with arched roofs, boarded floors, three straw mattresses, lighted by an iron-grating over each door, and all opening into their court-yard.

The women's court is of the same size as the former, and has four sleeping-cells attached to it, on the ground-floor, fitted up in the same manner as those for the men. The sewers are all judiciously placed, and not offensive.

Two rooms above-stairs are set apart as infirmaries, and have each a large iron-grated and glazed window, with a fire-place. Also two large work-rooms, with similar windows, spinning-wheels, stocking-frames, &c.

And

And all who are not committed to hard labour, receive two-pence out of every shilling they earn.

At my visit to the Old County Bridewell in 1803, the Keeper of it was the celebrated *Daniel Lambert*, who has since exhibited himself for the gratification of the Metropolis. He is said, in 1805, to have weighed 49 stone 12 pounds (or 698lbs.) which exceeds, by near four score and ten pounds, the corpulency of Mr. Edward Bright, of Maldon, in the county of Essex, who, from his well-known print by M'Ardell after a painting by Ogborne, it appears died Nov. 10, 1750, aged 29 years; and weighed when living 43 stone 7 pounds, which is 609lbs. He (Lambert) is about 39 years of age; was active a few years since, and even now, considering his bulk, is of singular vivacity. In 1805, I found both a new Prison at Leicester, and a new Keeper. His sedentary habits, we are told, had rendered him so much attached to his late employ, that it was with reluctance he heard the business of the Bridewell was to be transferred to the County Gaol, and himself obliged, like some other great men, to retire on a pension.

Lambert, it seems, had an invincible objection to have his weight ascertained. It was, however, at length effected by the following contrivance. Going one day to Loughborough, the carriage that conveyed him was designedly drawn over a weighing-engine; and thus, to his great vexation, he was informed of the fact, which he had so assiduously wished to avoid.

His brief historian, in a vein of irony, observes, that "had this fat man studied a thousand years, he could not have thought on a *profession* better calculated to suit his constitutional propensity to ease." It is hoped that the wit of this shrewd remark outweighs its scrupulous conformity to matter of fact; and yet even Gaolers, possibly, like the pilot of old times, may sometimes be found nodding on the post of duty.

A tolerably-executed etching of Lambert is in circulation. He is spoken of as a humane, benevolent man; but I thought him a very improper person to be the keeper of a Prison.

I am, dear Sir,
yours sincerely,
JAMES NEILD.

Dr. Lettsom, London.

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LETTER LIX. ON PRISONS.

"*There* the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the oppressor."
JOB iv. 19.

"Victor cum victis pariter miscebitur umbris. [sedes *."
Consule cum Mario, capte Jugurtha,
PROPERT. l. iii. p. 217. ed. Commelin.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook Court, May* 23, 1809.

THE philosophic mind contemplates with more regret than surprize, the inconsistencies of principle and action which actuate mankind, and which are strongly exemplified in the character of the citizens of Liverpool, whose domestic gratifications form a painful contrast to the miseries of the prisoner. Is it that those who have risen to wealth by the promotion of slavery, cannot be enamoured of the blessing of liberty; and that the process of transmuting the blood of an African into gold dust, extinguishes the finer feelings of humanity; and, to an incarcerated fellow christian, who has never trafficked on the gold coast of Africa, a dungeon ten steps under ground may be deemed a luxury compared with the allotment of two feet by nine in a slave-ship, under the zenith of a burning sun? Constantine the Great, when flattered by sycophants on account of the greatness of his empire, well observed, that soon he should claim only three feet by nine, never anticipating that Christians would learn to immolate their fellow creatures within less dimensions than the grave, even whilst living!

To complete the climax of inconsistency, there is in this wealthy town, a house of *Correction*, without a *Chaplain*, or the exercise of any religious duty whatever! The same is applicable to the Bridewell, which together thus constitute an easy ladder to the gallows.

Well might my benevolent friend exclaim, "Could the Constructors of such scanty repositories but reflect, how very irksome it must be to aggravate the sorrows of the helpless, the above remarks would tend to prevent actions so palpably injurious. When will those *who sit at ease* learn to grieve for the super-added affliction of fellow-creatures?"

May his remonstrances hasten this happy æra! is the hope of

J. C. LETTSOM.

LIVERPOOL. The BOROUGH GAOL.—Gaoler, *Edward Frodsham;* also a Serjeant at Mace. Salary, £130. Fees as *per* Table. Conveyance of transports one shilling *per* mile.—Garnish for felons, none; for debtors (not yet abolished) 4*s.* 6*d.*—Chaplain, Rev. *George Monk.* Duty, prayers and sermon on Sunday, and prayers on Thursday. Salary, £31. 10*s.*—Surgeon, as wanted, from the Dispensary; for which £12. *per annum* is paid by the Corporation.—Number of prisoners March 11, 1808, debtors, 75; felons, &c. 22.—Allowance, to very *poor debtors*, a three-penny loaf *per* day, weighing one pound three ounces: and a dinner from the Mayor every Christmas-day; see Remarks, "LEGACY." To felons, a three-penny loaf daily. Convicts have six-pence a day, in money and bread.

REMARKS:—The Castle of Liverpool, built by Roger de Poictiers, was pulled down in the reign of George the Second: but the Earl of Derby's castellated mansion has been for many years used as the Borough Gaol, and stands at the bottom of Water-street.

The Prison is surrounded by old buildings, called the *Tower Garden;* and without taking these down, it will be impossible to render the Gaol healthy or convenient. Here is only one court-yard of 60 feet by 30, for all descriptions of prisoners, men and women; it is paved with brick, and has in it a pump of excellent water, and two sewers. In the court-yard are kept fowls, ducks, &c. suffered to run about; and a large dunghill, that cannot but be offensive, and which is only cleared away once a month. Attached to it are five day-rooms; three of which were originally intended for the Men Debtors, one for the Women, and the fifth for Criminal prisoners; but they are used indiscriminately by all. Firing is allowed by the Corporation to all the day-rooms. Here is also one small room, set apart for the sick.

Common-side Debtors have seven rooms in one of the towers separately partitioned off; and these are *free wards*, to which the Corporation allows straw for bedding. In the other tower

* The victor and the conquered mix in the shades, and captive Jugurtha sits down with Consul Marius.

tower are three rooms for debtors on the master's side, furnished with beds by the Keeper at one shilling *per* week each; and two sleep together.

At my visit in 1805, there was a gallery built in the *Chapel*; and close to it five new sleeping-rooms for men debtors 7 feet 6 inches each by 6 feet, and 7 feet 6 high; to which the Keeper supplies beds at one shilling *per* week each; also two new rooms, over what is called the *Pilot's Office*, for women debtors; one of them holding three beds, the other a single bed, with fire-place and glazed windows. To these latter rooms the Gaoler furnishes beds, at the same price as the former *.

Down ten steps under ground are seven gloomy cells, or more properly *Dungeons*, for confining felons and other criminal offenders, in each of which were four prisoners locked up all night, when I was here in 1802, and in a larger one adjacent 23 feet by 16, and 13 feet high, were lodged the ten other criminals. This last is chiefly set apart for *Deserters*, of whom, I was informed, forty at a time had been there immured for three or four days together, and without being suffocated. It is ventilated and lighted by a treble iron barred and grated window that looks toward the street; of these subterraneous holes, I shall have occasion to speak again.

From the promiscuous association and licentious intercourse between the sexes in this Gaol, I could not but imagine little attention was paid to the officiating Minister; and having therefore requested Mr. *Staniforth*, an able and active magistrate of the Borough to accompany me to the Chapel, I found that, on Thursday the 14th October 1802, *six prisoners* only out of the 109 attended prayers.

To this Gaol are taken all persons arrested for debt by process issued out of the Borough Court of Liverpool.

The probable great importance of the following document will be my best apology for giving it, as obligingly communicated to me by Mr. *Brancker* the worthy Mayor of this respectable Borough. Abstract of a Deed in the Old *Church* at Liverpool, respecting the distribution of certain legacies of £200. and £300., left by Mrs. Ann Molineux, in the year 1727, to poor prisoners for debt, &c. in the *Borough Gaol*; and also to poor sailors and sailors' widows, especially those in the alms-houses.

"This Indenture, Quadripartite, &c. made the 9th day of October, in the year 1732, between *Ralph Williamson* of Liverpool, &c. Merchant, and *Robert Whittle* of Knowsley, &c. Gentleman, Executors of the last Will, &c. of *Ann Molyneux*, late of Liverpool, &c. Widow, of the first part, *George Tyrer* of Liverpool, &c. Merchant, of the second part, *Hannah Tyrer* of Low Hill, &c. Widow, of the third part; and *Richard Gildart*, Mayor for the time being, *John Stanley* and *Thomas Baldwin*, Rectors of the Parish, &c. of the fourth part.—Whereas the said *Ann Molyneux*, being charitably disposed, by her last Will, &c. dated the 19th day of January, in the year 1727, gave, devised, and bequeathed, to the said Mayor and Rectors, the sum of £200. for the support and maintenance of poor prisoners for debt (or otherwise) in the Gaol or Prison for the Borough of Liverpool; and it was also declared to be her Will and Mind, that the said Mayor and Rectors should place the said sum of £200. out at interest upon land security, if such could be had, and dispose of the said interest yearly, for the support and maintenance of the said prisoners.

"In a subsequent part of her last Will, as referred to in the said Indenture, she also bequeathed to the said Rectors for the time being the sum of £300., the interest of which was directed to be distributed by the said Rectors to poor sailors, and sailors' widows, especially those in the alms-houses. It is afterwards mentioned in the said Indenture, that with the said sums of £200. and £300. were purchased three closes of land in Mosslake, containing seven acres of land, of the large measure; which were subjected to the payment of two fifth parts of the rents and produce to the said Mayor and Rectors, for the support and maintenance of the said poor prisoners for debt (or otherwise) in the Borough Gaol; and the remaining three fifth parts of the rents and produce were to be paid to the Rectors, and distributed yearly to the said poor sailors and sailor's widows, especially those in the alms-houses, by the said Rectors."

The foregoing statement was faithfully abridged and extracted from the original Deed, kept in the Vestry of St. *Nicholas'* Church in Liverpool, (to which reference may always be had by the Mayor of Liverpool) the 5th day of July in the year 1798. (Signed) R. H. Roughsedge.

Amount

* Some bed-rooms have been added since (taken from a house adjoining the prison), for the accommodation, separation, and comfort of the debtors.

Amount of the produce of the poor's fields in *Mosslake*, Liverpool, in 1802.

	£.
From Mr. *Carson*, as tenant,	76
From Mr. *Whitlow*, as tenant,	41
Clear rent *per annum*, £.	117

The above legacies appear to have been most judiciously laid out, so as best to answer the pious intentions of the Donor; and from the local situation of the land, so contiguous to the town of LIVERPOOL, it will, in all probability, be soon built upon, and produce an immense revenue.

Debtors of the Borough Gaol receive also the benefit of a legacy of £40. a year from some other source, which is paid into the hands of the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Corporation, and by them applied yearly at Christmas to the discharge of insolvent debtors. No Memorial of it appears on record in the prison.

A new Gaol has been built here, by Mr. *Blackburne*, a little way out of the town, on which the *Corporation* have spared no expence. It is formed upon a *very large scale*, with a proper separation of the different classes and sexes; and for security, health, reformation and convenience, appears to be one of the best Gaols in the kingdom. Unluckily, however, it was let to Government many years, and used as a place of confinement for French prisoners, who wantonly and deliberately damaged the building to so shameful a degree, that it was not repaired nor inhabited in 1808.

The unhealthy *Dungeons*, before noticed at the Borough Gaol, are still suffered to be in use; of which that the reader may form some idea, I will describe them with their dimensions, and then quit the unwelcome subject. Seven close and very obscure cells, ten steps below the surface, within a passage of 11 feet wide; each of them 6 feet 6 inches by 5 feet 9, and 6 *feet only* high. The grated vent-holes in their doors are of 11 inches only by 6 inches, and so barred as almost to shut out every ray of light. When I was here in 1802, no less than 28 prisoners were locked up at night, four in each of these wretched receptacles, which could not allow more than *twenty-two inches* space for each prisoner; and yet, at my visit in 1805, I found three new additional dungeons, all of the same size!

The Act for *preserving the health of the prisoners*, however, and the Clauses against their use of spirituous liquors, are hung up in the Gaol.

Could the constructors of such scanty repositories but reflect, how very irksome it must be to aggravate the sorrows of the helpless, I flatter myself the above remarks would tend to prevent actions so palpably injurious. When will those *who sit at ease* learn to grieve for the super-added affliction of fellow-creatures? Justice is a sacred thing! but the extreme of its exertions is surely no less needless than deplorable.

LIVERPOOL. The COUNTY BRIDEWELL.—Keeper, *Robert Walton*. Salary, one guinea *per* week; and two Turnkeys, at 15*s*. *per* week each. Fees, none.—Chaplain, none.—Surgeon, when wanted, from the Dispensary.—Number of prisoners, Oct. 11, 1802, 28.—Allowance, 3*d*. a day.

REMARKS:—The Ancient County Bridewell, was formerly a Magazine belonging to the old Castle, and consisted of 2 cells, one of them 12 feet by 7 feet 6, the other 18 feet by 12, both 8 steps under ground, and damp, lighted and ventilated by one iron barred and grated window in each, with fire-places. Also 2 rooms above stairs, the one, 18 feet by 10, the other, 10 feet by 9: and 2 other cells totally dark, only 6 feet by 3 each, and 6 feet high. No straw, or other bedding whatsoever was allowed: no employment; no court-yard: no water was accessible to the prisoners; and the Corporation only allowed them firing. In short, it laboured not merely under the infirmities of deserted age, but had several great and radical defects.

It was pulled down at my visit in 1805; and the present prison for temporary confinement having been previously got ready was first inhabited 26th December 1804.

This new building is near the Town-Hall, and from the basement story there is a subterraneous passage through which the prisoners are conducted for examination, and which opens by a trap-door into the Bar of the Sessions House, by which means the prisoners are taken for examination, and remanded when necessary, without being exposed to public view; it also prevents occasional crowds and disorderly

disorderly conduct during the removal of prisoners.

The front entrance, or first floor, consists of the Porter's Lodge, 21 feet by 14, and 11 feet high; this room has a fire-place and glazed windows, and is fitted up with chairs and benches for the Turnkey and the assistant Constables of the night. A lock-up-room (intended for disorderly females) 23 feet by 15, and eleven feet high, with a fire-place, is fitted up with wooden benches, and a sewer attached to it. There are also two other cells for prisoners to be kept separate, each 9 feet by 8, and 10 feet high, fitted up with cast-iron bedsteads, to which the town furnishes straw-in-sacking beds, 2 sheets, 2 blankets, a bolster and a quilt each; the remainder of this story is occupied by the Keeper.

The basement story (before mentioned) to which the descent is by 17 steps, is surrounded by an open area from which the rooms are ventilated, and consists of one room 23 feet by 15, and 10 feet high, with a fire-place and wooden benches. There are also 2 sleeping-cells, of the same size, and fitted up as those above described, with a convenient sewer attached. These rooms are designed for the reception of prisoners of refractory disposition, or under charge of offences of a more serious nature. The stair-cases are stone, and all the rooms where prisoners are confined are arched with brick, and have flagged stone floors.

The second story ascended by 22 steps, is appropriated to the reception of prisoners of a more decent appearance, and for slight offences, and contains a large room and two sleeping-cells of the same dimensions and fitted up as the former; the remainder of this story is occupied by the Keeper, except one room over the porter's lodge, which is reserved for prisoners of respectable connexions *. The sexes are separate; the prison is well supplied with excellent water brought to it by pipes. Coals and candles are furnished at the expence of the Corporation; but there is no allowance of food—that must be purchased by the prisoners, or furnished by their friends.

* Should there be more prisoners than the cells will accommodate, they must sleep in their clothes upon benches two feet wide.

Liverpool. House of Correction.—Keeper, *Jane Widdowes.* Salary, £63. with firing and candle. A Turnkey, at 10*s.* *per* week, who has also fuel for his apartment.---Surgeon, from the Dispensary.---No Chaplain, or any religious attentions whatever. ---Number of prisoners, Oct. 25, 1805, 39.---Dietary for the prisoners. *Thursday* and *Sunday*, a penny-worth of bread; and ditto of potatoes, and a herring. *Monday*, *Wednesday*, *Friday*, *Saturday*, a two-penny loaf and water. And on *Tuesday*, a penny-worth of bread, with ditto of potatoes, and salt.

Remarks:---This Prison was built in 1776, on an eminence adjoining to the work-house. The men and women have separate rooms and court-yards.

For the men here are four rooms below, and four above; for the women six rooms both below and above. They are each 12 feet by 10, and nearly 9 feet high; all supplied with bedsteads, straw-in-sacking beds, two blankets and coverlets, but are too close, having *no windows*, but only an aperture in the doors about 9 *inches square*, and an iron plate near the cieling, perforated with five small holes. At the end of the passage is a room for the refractory, 7 feet by 4 feet 10, totally dark, and without ventilation.

In the men's court-yard is a work-shop, originally of 20 feet by 17 feet 9, but since divided into two, where men and boys were employed in picking oakum; and the average earnings two-pence half-penny *per* day.

The wanton severity heretofore exercised towards the women, both with respect to the bath or *cucking-stool*, and the weekly *whipping* in the men's court, is now, at length, discontinued. If any are sick, the work-house surgeon attends them, and orders what is proper in respect to diet.

The Prison is kept very clean. It is hoped that the distribution of sewers throughout it, is now better attended to. The Act and Clauses are both properly hung up.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

James Neild.

Dr. Lettsom, London.

P. S. At a subsequent visit, I found that one room from the men's side, and another from the women's, were taken away and added to the work-house. J. N.

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LETTER LX. ON PRISONS.

Non era camminati di palagio,
La' v' eravam, ma natural burilla,
Ch' avea mal suolo, edi lame disagio*.
DANTE, l' Inferno, c. 34. l. 97.

Mr. URBAN, *Sambrook-court, June* 28.

THE quotation prefixed is a description of a part of the infernal regions, to which the author was led in safety under the guidance of the spirit of the Mantuan bard; but the horror of the place, however heightened by picturesque poetry, does not exceed that which, in a feeling mind, must be excited on perusing the narrative of my humane friend. He, indeed, was not conducted and preserved by the magic power of Dante, but under the more impressive power of the benevolent religion of Jesus.

Αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ θεός εἰμι, διαμπερὲς ἥ σε φυλάσσω
Ἐν πάντεσσι πόνοις ——— †.
ODYSS. lib. xx. v. 47, 48.

It is the spirit of this religion that leads its followers to visit the prisoner, even immured in dungeons under ground: to restore to society the unhappy sinner, or fugitive prodigal; the forlorn outcast as well as the wounded Samaritan. Does any portion of this spirit ever pervade the dungeons at Maidstone, or do the amities of the Gospel illumine its ramifications of misery?

Scarcely can I believe that the people of Maidstone, and of the wealthy County of Kent, are apprized of the sufferings of their incarcerated brethren. May the knowledge of them rouse the feelings and animate the exertions of some pious clergyman or active magistrate, remains the hope of J. C. LETTSOM.

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* ——— It was no place-hall
Lofty and luminous, wherein we stood,
But natural dungeon, where ill footing was,
And scant supply of light. CARY.

† ——— But I, who keep
Thee in all difficulties, am divine.

MAIDSTONE. Gaoler, *Thomas Watson*; salary, £.300.; fees, Debtors, 12*s.* 10*d.* Felons, &c. 13*s.* 4*d.* See Table. Garnish, 2*s.* 8*d.* exacted by the Prisoners. Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Shelton*; duty, Prayers and Sermon to Debtors and Felons and that only on alternate Sundays (see Remarks); salary, £.50. Surgeon, Mr. *Coleman*; salary £.50. for this Gaol *(Debtors included)* and for the Bridewell. Number of Prisoners July 14, 1808, Debtors 51, Felons, &c. 57. Allowance, a half-quartern loaf every other day, and one quart of small-beer daily, for prisoners of all descriptions. Whatever the baker's bill amounts to weekly for bread, one half of that sum is allowed for *table beer*; but when a debtor obtains his sixpences, the allowance of bread is discontinued.

REMARKS. From the inscription, "C. SLOANE, Architect," on a stone in front, it appears that this Gaol was erected in 1746. The Keeper's house separates the Debtors' Prison from that of the Felons; but he has no proper view of the Prison at large.

For Men-debtors here are two Court-yards. The upper one, 43 feet by 38, is paved with flag-stones; the lower, which is 96 feet by 48, has a hard gravelled bottom. They have likewise a common day-room, of 26 feet by 19.

The Women-debtors have no Court-yard, and only one room, 13 feet by 10.

On the first floor are eight spacious rooms for Debtors, opening into a lobby six feet two inches wide. Master-side Debtors pay 1*s.* 2*d.* *per* week. Those who have a room to themselves pay 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week; and here is one handsomely furnished, for which a prisoner paid five shillings *per* week.

For Common-side Debtors here are two rooms of 26 feet by 19 each, called by a singular fancy the "*Pennyless Wards*," because each poor Debtor who sleeps there pays one penny *per* week.

The

The Debtors are allowed by the County three chaldron of coals a year.

The *Infirmary* has two rooms, one 20 feet by 18, the other 15 feet by 12, and one very improperly built in the *Common Felons Court-yard*, in the *centre* of the Prison. The lower room has a barrack bedstead; the upper was used as a store-room for bedding, &c. and both have glazed windows and fire-places.

Here is no *regular Chapel;* for want of which the Debtors have Divine Service performed to them in a lobby-room: of the *Felons* I shall speak presently.

Masters-side Felons have a Court-yard 42 feet by 18, and a day-room of 16 feet by 13; with eight sleeping-rooms nearly the same size, two of which front the street. They are furnished with wooden bedsteads without curtains, feather-beds and bedding, at 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, and have two or more beds in each room. But, if a prisoner has a room to himself, the charge is 5*s.* *per* week.

The wall being three feet thick, the light and air are still farther obstructed at the windows of both Debtors and Felons, by wooden bars of three inches and a half broad, instead of single iron bars.

The Common-side Felons Court-yard is 47 feet by 29. They have also a day-room 15 feet six inches by 12 feet six. Their sleeping-wards on the ground-floor are six rooms, of the average size of 14 feet by 12; and each contains a barrack bedstead for five prisoners, which are judiciously made to turn up, as is always done every morning, not only to give a fresher circulation of air, but for the purpose of sweeping and washing the rooms. These prisoners are allowed a straw in sacking bed each, with two blankets and a rug.

The Women Felons have a Court-yard of about 18 feet by 12, with a pump, and sewer in one corner; and arcades for air and exercise. Also a day-room 20 feet by 16, and two lodging-rooms about the same size. The bedding here is like that on the Male Felons side, for such as pay 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week. Those who cannot pay for beds have straw in sacking, with two blankets and a rug each.

Felons are allowed by the County thirteen chaldrons of coals yearly. Convicts under sentence of transportation, in addition to the County dole, have the King's allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* *per* week, till their removal.

In this gaol there are two horrid *dungeons*, of 12 feet square, and totally dark, assigned for the condemned prisoners; the descent to which is by eleven steps. And here it was that, in almost all my visits (not likely soon to be forgotten) I found men confined for robbing their fellow prisoners in the Gaol! At my last visit there were two of this very depraved description shut up together; nor do I, indeed, recollect to have ever been here without seeing some one so detained. Surely this must seem to argue some reprehensible degree of neglect as to matters of religious attention.

The duty of Divine Service is still, and for many years past has been, performed to Debtors and Felons on alternate Sundays. I have been informed, that at some times, previous to the appointment of Mr. Evans the late Chaplain, no such service, no mental guardianship whatsoever, took place for six weeks or two months together.

And, even now, in what manner and where is the solemn business performed? Prayers are read, and a Sermon delivered by the Chaplain of this County Gaol, upon the landing of the staircase, to the *Criminals*, who are *stationed within the iron gate;* but scarcely one-third of them either see the Minister or hear the Service. The Women Felons have no religious attentions of any kind paid to them, nor any opportunity of joining in the Service, although some are confined here for years together. Nay, even those convicts who lie under sentence of death, are brought forth into a small open court-yard, however severe may be the weather, and the Minister prays by them from the Keeper's back room. Yet this is the populous Prison of a most respectable and opulent County; and thus I exonerate my mind upon the subject.

The Common-side Felons, &c. of this Gaol are some of the most miserable beings imaginable, squallid, dirty, and in rags. No discrimination of turpitude is duly observed. The prisoners here frequently rob each other, and particularly those deserters who occasionally

occasionally stay but a few days, are sure to lose any money they may have about them. One of this description lost ten pounds, and another had a pair of new shoes taken from him. Young novices in transgression and notorious offenders are blended in a mass of mutual and inevitable injury to each other. In short, the Prison in question is a discredit to the County; and I hope I am assured upon good grounds that a *new Gaol* is intended to be soon built, which, like that just finished at Canterbury, may obliterate the remembrance of its predecessor, and do honour to all who shall be concerned in so beneficial an improvement.

Here are no *Rules and Orders* : no employment furnished: no regulations as to the quantity of liquors which Debtors may receive, who are sometimes unruly, and set the Keeper at defiance. Though the Prohibitory Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are conspicuously hung up, yet as the windows of both Debtors and the Felons Gaols front the street, they afford a facility of introduction I fear the utmost vigilance cannot always prevent. No books for the visiting Magistrates, Chaplain, or Surgeon, to enter their remarks in, for the better ordering of their important concern.

Prisoners are discharged from hence in a morning ; but they have no money to carry them home, and thus prevent an immediate recurrence to acts of depredation that may speedily consign them back to their late abode.

The Earl of Romney and family, at Boxley, have for these thirty years annually given five guineas to the Prisoners, in general at Christmas. The High Sheriff likewise gives two guineas, and the Under Sheriff one guinea, each assize.

The Gaoler appears to be a humane man, and I have always found the Prison remarkably clean, difficult as it must necessarily be; and every beneficial tendency to a change in arrangement will but render the execution of his arduous office more respectable in itself, and infinitely more comfortable to many others under his care.

[At my last visit, 19th July, 1809, I found the old Keeper dead, a new one appointed, and several beneficial regulations. A book in which the visiting Magistrates enter their remarks and orders, and another in which the Surgeon enters the name and disease of every sick prisoner, the medicines administered, and extra diet or clothing necessary. The lower part of the Infirmary is converted into a reception-room for unclean prisoners, and fitted up with a copper for warm water, and a tin slipper-bath.

The upper room is furnished with proper bedding for the sick, and well lighted and ventilated by three large windows.

Childbed linen is likewise provided by the County, and weight scales and measures for the use of the prisoners. There are additional cupboards in the Debtors rooms for securing their provision, and a night chair in every ward; and in case of sickness one room is ordered to be appropriated as an Infirmary.]

Maidstone House of Correction. Keeper, late *John Downe*, now *Daniel Kingsnorth*; salary, £.50. and five chaldron of coals yearly for the Keeper's House and the Prison. Fees: Felons, 13*s*. 4*d*. Misdemeanors, 6*s*. 8*d*. Faulty Servants, 4*s*. 6*d*. Garnish, not yet abolished, 2*s*. Chaplain, none. Divine Service never performed here, nor any religious attentions paid whatever, although Prisoners are sometimes committed hither for so long a term as two years. Surgeon, Mr. *Coleman*; salary, for this Prison and the County Gaol, £.50. Number of Prisoners July 14, 1808, twenty-three men and six women. Allowance, a half quartern loaf each in two days, to those who do not work; and to those who work five half quartern loaves *per* week. No beer.

Remarks. The Men's Court-yard in this Bridewell is 54 feet by 42, paved with flag-stones, and has a pump in it, with a sewer in one corner. Their day or mess-room is 12 feet by 8, with a fire-place, and benches to sit upon, and shelves for provisions.

They have also two sleeping-rooms on the ground-floor; one called the Upper Ward, 22 feet by 16, has straw in sacking beds on the floor, no bedding whatever, and iron-grated windows which look into the Court. Eleven prisoners slept in this room.

The

The Lower Ward, 19 feet by 16, has barrack beds, with straw in sacking, but no bedding. The iron-grated windows look into a narrow passage, five feet wide and twenty-one feet long. In this twelve Prisoners slept.

The Men's Infirmary, which is likewise on the ground-floor, and in size 15 feet by 12, has two wooden turn-up bedsteads, with flock beds, two blankets, two sheets, and a rug each.

The Women have a Court-yard, paved with flag-stones, 42 feet by 36, the door of which has a cylinder, and opens into the narrow passage above-described.

Their day or mess-room, eight feet by seven, with a fire-place and copper. Their sleeping-room, 21 feet by 16, has straw in sacking laid on the floor, but no bedding. Six Women slept here.

Their Infirmary-room is up-stairs, above the Men's Infirmary, and of same size, with two grated and glazed windows, and a fire-place. When this room is not occupied by the sick, the barrack beds are furnished by the Keeper with bedding, for those who can pay him 2*s.* 4*d.* a week.

If a prisoner is sick, the Surgeon has a discretionary power to order a better regimen or clothing, as he deems needful; which is humanely allowed by the County.

In the Women's Court-yard, and seven steps under-ground, are two loathsome dungeons, 15 feet by 10, and six feet six inches high, totally dark, for confining the refractory.

The Gaoler's House till lately commanded no view of any part of the Prison; but in 1808 I found a window made, through which the Keeper has a command of the Men's Court. Indeed the whole Prison is now put under better regulation; and lenity, in some degree, has supplied the place of severity.

For many years a great part of this Prison has been rented of the Keepers by Mr. Blundell, a weaver in the town, at £.10. *per annum;* and here he has a work-room of 28 feet by 16, the three windows of which look into the Men Criminals Court. In this room are nine hemp-blocks; and the prisoners are occasionally employed in beating hemp, making sacks, and picking oakum, but they receive no part of their earnings. Abovestairs are store-rooms, the whole length of the Prison, in which Mr. Blundell deposits the rough materials used in his business.

This Bridewell is white-washed twice a year, and the whole Prison kept clean.

Prisoners are discharged in a morning, but have no money issued to carry them safely home.

The Act for Preservation of Health is not hung up; but the Prohibitory Clauses against Spirituous Liquors are placed in the Keeper's House.

I am, dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

JAMES NEILD.

To Dr. Lettsom, London.

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